

Resolutions Considered

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The Security Council is considering a new resolution that would establish a U.N. mission in Libya, unfreeze assets of two major oil companies and lift a ban on flights by Libyan aircraft, according to a copy obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press.

Britain circulated the draft resolution to the 15-member council Tuesday night and Western diplomats said they are hoping for a vote by the end of the week.



Ali Sallabi, an Islamist leader, in an interview in Tripoli, Libya, Sept. 1, 2011. The United States and Libya's new leaders say the Islamists are sending signals that they are dedicated to democratic pluralism, and that there is no reason to doubt their sincerity. (Moises Saman/The New York Times)

Diplomats said the U.S. and France were involved in the drafting, and veto-wielding Russia and China agreed to the draft.

The proposed resolution would modify the arms embargo imposed on Moammar Gadhafi's regime to allow the rebel movement now controlling the country to buy arms "intended solely for security or disarmament assistance."

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'Green' Is Good



FBI agents (left) speak with an unidentified Solyndra worker (right) at Solyndra headquarters in Fremont, Calif. The FBI are executing search warrants at the headquarters of California solar firm Solyndra that received a \$535 million loan from the federal government. (AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

House Republicans questioned Wednesday whether the White House rushed approval of a half-billion-dollar loan guarantee for a now-bankrupt solar panel manufacturer once cited as the kind of renewable energy company worthy of federal stimulus money. Solyndra Inc. was a major presence in Washington and spent millions of dollars on lobbying there, particularly about the Energy Department's loan guarantee

program. And its executives raised thousands of dollars for Obama and Democrats in Congress. The collapse of the Fremont, Calif.-based company once touted by President Barack Obama ultimately left taxpayers on the hook for \$528 million, raising questions if the loan was rushed to accommodate a company event in September 2009 that featured Vice President Joe Biden. The congressional panel examining the loan disclosed emails that appeared to show senior staff at the Office of Manage-

ment and Budget chafing about having to conduct "rushed approvals" of federal loan guarantees designed to help jumpstart the nation's renewable energy industry. "We would prefer to have sufficient time to do our due diligence reviews and have the approval set the date for the announcement rather than the other way around," said one of the emails from an unnamed OMB aide to Biden's office. Obama cited Solyndra as an example of how the economic stimulus bill would create jobs.

But the company has since filed for bankruptcy and shed 1,100 workers, saying it couldn't compete with foreign manufacturers of solar panels. Documents reviewed by The Associated Press show Solyndra spent nearly \$2 million lobbying the federal government during the last four years, including on provisions of the Energy Department's loan program just months before White House officials urged that the funds be approved.

Continued on Page 2

House probing \$528M loan to failed solar company

Continued from Front

In the first quarter of 2009, Solyndra paid McBee Strategic Consulting \$20,000 to lobby on issues related to the Energy Department's loan guarantee program, records show, and it paid \$30,000 in early 2008 to Dutko Worldwide to handle Solyndra's loan application. Republican lawmakers on the House Energy and Commerce Committee's investigations panel are questioning why there was a rush to approve the loan and whether the entire loan guarantee program is warranted. "Our investigation raises several questions about whether the administration did everything it could to protect taxpayer dollars," said the committee's chairman, Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich. White House spokesman Jay Carney said the emails don't suggest that the White House was pushing for the loan to be made. "What the emails make clear is there was urgency to make a decision on a scheduling matter. It is a big proposition to move the president or to put on an event and that sort of thing so people were simply looking for answers about whether or not people could move forward," Carney told reporters at the White House. "It had nothing to — and there is no evidence to the contrary — nothing to do with anything besides the need to get an answer to make a scheduling decision," he said. The Obama administration and Democratic lawmakers have aggressively sought to invest in renewable energy projects as a way to create jobs and to reduce the nation's reliance on oil. They note that other countries are also investing heavily in solar and that the race for solar manufacturing jobs is worth winning because the global market is going to be worth trillions of dollars. The Solyndra fallout comes at an embarrassing time for the White House, while Obama is traveling the country promoting his jobs



An FBI agent stands outside of Solyndra headquarters in Fremont, Calif., Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011. The FBI are executing search warrants at the headquarters of California solar firm Solyndra that received a \$535 million loan from the federal government.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

plan, which includes more investments in renewable energy. The subcommittee has been investigating Solyndra for nearly six months as it began to have financial troubles. Shortly after the filing, FBI officials raided the company's headquarters; the compa-

ny said the FBI was seeking records on the loans. An AP review of Federal Election Commission records shows Solyndra executives have given to both Obama and Democratic-aligned groups. Ben Bierman, Solyndra's executive vice president, and Karen

Alter, the firm's marketing vice president, contributed more than \$3,500 to Obama's campaign. And one of the company's investors, George Kaiser, was a "bundler" for Obama's 2008 campaign, raising between \$50,000 and \$100,000 for the president,

records show.

Democrats on the Energy and Commerce Committee had questioned the basis of the Solyndra investigation and in July had voted against issuing subpoenas for documents from OMB. But after the bankruptcy and FBI raid, Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo., described the loan Wednesday as a "debacle." But Democrats also argued that it's not clear whether the company's financial woes were just a result of unforeseen market conditions or sloppy vetting or corporate malfeasance. Democrats also said that failure to invest in the U.S. solar industry would amount to an economic death sentence that would allow other nations to dominate a growing business. "If you live in reality, you know the world cannot continue its dependence on fossil fuels and that we are in danger of losing this industry to our competitors, especially China," said Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif. □

UN resolution would create UN mission in Libya

Continued from Front

It would also allow small arms, light weapons and related materiel into the country to protect U.N., humanitarian and diplomatic personnel. Under the proposed draft, the no fly zone imposed in March after Gadhafi launched his crackdown on regime opponents would remain in place but be kept under review.

The ban on all flights by aircraft registered in Libya, or owned or operated by Libyan companies or Libyan citizens, would be lifted. The draft resolution would also lift the asset freeze on the Libyan National Oil Corporation and Zueitina Oil Company and modify the asset freeze on the Central Bank of Libya, the Libyan Foreign Bank, the Libyan Investment Authority and the Libyan Africa Investment Portfolio.

But it would retain the as-



Residents gather to celebrate the end of Ramadan and the liberation of the city in Martyr's Square in Tripoli, Libya, on Aug. 31, 2011. Long repressed by Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi, Islamists are now emerging as the best-organized political faction in the country, with influence beyond their numbers.

(Moises Saman/The New York Times)

set freeze and travel ban against Gadhafi and key family members and regime supporters.

The National Transitional Council, established by the rebels who ended Gadhafi's 42-year rule and sent the former dictator into hiding, has asked the United Nations for assistance as it

struggles to establish a government.

The proposed resolution calls for the establishment of a United Nations Support Mission in Libya for an initial period of three months to assist the new government in restoring security and the rule of law, promoting national reconciliation and

embarking on the process of writing a constitution and preparing for elections. It would reaffirm the U.N.'s lead in international efforts supporting the Libyan-led transition and rebuilding process "aimed at establishing a democratic, independent and united Libya." □

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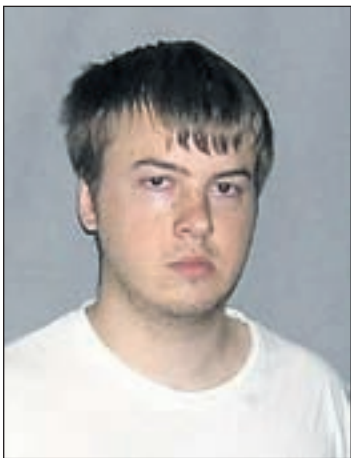
Prosecutors file more charges in 'sextortion' case

CHARLES WILSON
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A man charged with extorting an teen into sexual favors victimized other teens in several states after he was released on bond, federal prosecutors said Wednesday. Trevor Shea, 20, has agreed to plead guilty to charges of sexual exploitation of children stemming from both cases, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. Prosecutors say he blackmailed and convinced 10 girls between the ages of 13 and 16 to send him sexually explicit photographs or videos.

Court documents filed in U.S. District Court in Indianapolis allege that Shea coerced four girls in Florida, Kansas and Maryland into various acts after his release on bond following his initial indictment in June 2010. At the time, Shea was on home detention and being electronically monitored and had agreed not to use a computer as a term of release. He was in U.S. marshals' custody Wednesday. U.S. Attorney A. Brant Cook said it was important for teens to realize that online acts that seem harmless and private today can later come back to haunt them. "It's important to note that digital images ... never go away and can be passed along at the click of a button," he said at a news conference to announce the charges Wednesday. Shea could face 15 to 30 years in prison on each of the seven counts against him under terms of a pro-

posed plea agreement, and up to 30 years more for violating the terms of his pre-trial release. Shea's attorney, Michael Donahoe, declined to comment on the case. The case is an example of a growing crime that federal prosecutors call "sextortion," in which Internet predators catch victims in embarrassing situations online and threaten to expose them unless they create sexually explicit photos or videos for them. U.S. Attorney Joe Hogsett said Shea's case was a "landmark of its kind" in



A man charged with extorting teens into sexual favors victimized other teens in several states after he was released on bond, federal prosecutors said Wednesday.

part because there were so many victims from across the country and he allegedly forced the girls to indulge in sadistic and masochistic behavior on webcam. Shea's case began in September 2009, when police received a report that a 16-year-old girl from Brownsburg, Indiana, was being stalked over the Internet. □

Some Dems balk jobs bill

JENNIFER STEINHAUER

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WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama anticipated Republican resistance to his jobs program, but he is now meeting increasing pushback from his own party. Many congressional Democrats, smarting from the fallout over the 2009 stimulus bill, say there is little chance they will be able to support the bill as a single entity, citing an array of elements they cannot abide. "I think the American people are very skeptical of big pieces of legislation," Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., said in an interview Wednesday, joining a growing chorus of Democrats who prefer an a la carte version of the bill despite White House resistance to that approach. "For that reason alone I think we should break it up."

Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader, has said he will put the bill on the legislative calendar but has declined to say when. He almost certainly will push

the bill — which Obama urged Congress to pass "right now!" — until after his



President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama attend the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's 34th annual awards gala at the Washington Convention Center, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011 in Washington. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

chamber's recess at the end of the month; Reid has set votes on disaster aid, extensions for the Federal Aviation Administration and

a short-term spending plan ahead of the jobs bill.

Republicans have focused their attack on the tax increases that would help pay for the spending components of the bill. But Democrats, as is their wont, are divided over their objections, which stem from Obama's sinking popularity in polls, parochial concerns and the party's chronic inability to unite around a legislative initiative, even in the face of Republican opposition. Some are unhappy about the specific types of companies, particularly the oil industry, that would lose tax benefits.

"I have said for months that I am not supporting a repeal of tax cuts for the oil industry unless there are other industries that contribute," said Sen. Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana.

A small but vocal group dislikes the payroll tax cuts for employees and small businesses. "I have been very unequivocal," said Rep. Peter A. DeFazio, a D-Ore. "No more tax cuts." □

Man accused of threatening VP Joe Biden held without bail

HONOLULU (AP) — A former U.S. service member arrested in Honolulu for allegedly sending emails from Thailand threatening to kill Vice President Joe Biden has been ordered held without bail.

Justin Alan Woodward appeared Wednesday in federal court in Honolulu for a detention hearing. He

was arrested last week at the Honolulu airport when he arrived on a flight from Bangkok. Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Brady says the judge determined Woodward was a flight risk and danger to the community and ordered him held without bail. Woodward's public defender declined comment. According to

the criminal complaint, Woodward admitted to agents that he wrote the threatening messages.

He told officials he was medically discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps for bipolar disorder. Brady says Woodward was deported from Thailand after being arrested for assault. □

Crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger

Vegas man: \$2M Bulger reward paid to tipster

DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The FBI has paid a \$2 million reward to a tipster who provided information that led to the arrest of fugitive crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger, according to a Las Vegas man who tried unsuccessfully to claim the reward. Bulger, who was long one of America's most wanted fugitives, was captured in June in Santa Monica, California, where he had been living in a rented apartment with his longtime girlfriend, Catherine Greig. Bulger, a longtime FBI informant, was wanted in connection with 19 murders. He fled Boston just before he was indicted in early 1995.

Keith Messina, a restaurant manager from Las Vegas, said he tried to claim all or part of the reward because he called the television show "America's Most Wanted" in 2008 and reported seeing Bulger in Santa Monica.

Messina, 45, said Wednesday that he recently was notified by the FBI that it had rejected his claim and had paid the money to the tipster who provided information that led to the arrest of Bulger and Greig in June.

"That's what they told my attorney, that they were writing the check as we speak," Messina said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Messina said his attorney had called the FBI to see how they would go about filing a claim for the reward money. He said that after his attorney was told the reward had been given to someone else, he received a letter from the FBI saying his claim for it had been rejected.

"We still filed a claim," Messina said. "They're the ones who made a mistake. They would have had him three years ago. If they had followed my tip, they would have nailed him."

Messina's attorney, Michael Gowdey, was upset over the matter when speaking by telephone



from Las Vegas on Wednesday.

"We all wonder exactly why the FBI would encourage people to make tips that they're just going to ignore," Gowdey said. "It took them two years and God-knows-how-much

taxpayers' money after Mr. Messina made the tip to come to the conclusion that they should check in the place that Mr. Messina told them originally."

He said the FBI never responded to Messina and claimed it never acted on

his tip, "but it is funny that 'Whitey' Bulger was arrested in exactly the spot that Mr. Messina reported to 'America's Most Wanted.'" He said he plans to file a lawsuit to contest the FBI decision to deny his client a share of the reward money. Messina said he was in Santa Monica with his wife and children when he saw a man who resembled Bulger standing by a pier, wearing shorts and reading a thick book. He said that when a young couple walked by, Bulger appeared to notice the man's shirt, which had some kind of Boston insignia on it. "He said, 'Hey, are you from Boston?'" Messina said. "Then they started talking about various places in Boston."

Messina said he then looked on the "America's Most Wanted" website, recognized the man he

saw as Bulger and called staff members at the show to give them his tip. He said he later was told by the staff members that they had passed his tip along to the FBI.

Neither the FBI nor the U.S. attorney's office in Boston would confirm whether the reward had been paid. A spokeswoman for U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz said the FBI wanted to protect the identity of the tipster and information related to the reward would be released "if and when the time is appropriate."

Authorities have said only that the tipster was a woman who saw a television news report about a publicity campaign in the manhunt for Bulger, now 82, and Greig, 60. The couple were captured within days after the FBI began the campaign. □

'Girls Gone Wild' founder wins gambling debt case

KEN RITTER

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — "Girls Gone Wild" founder Joe Francis beat the house Wednesday in a criminal case over a \$2.5 million Las Vegas casino debt.

A state judge threw out a criminal theft and bad check indictment against the soft-porn mogul that involved the Wynn Las Vegas resort. Because the casino waited 16 months to redeem a casino marker, or IOU, the judge ruled that Wynn and prosecutors lost their chance to prove Francis committed a crime.

Unpaid casino markers are treated in Nevada like bad checks under a state law that allows prosecutors to file criminal charges and collect a percentage of any settlement.

"The presumption of fraud does not apply," Clark County District Court Judge Linda Marie Bell said in the ruling. "Mr. Francis had sufficient funds in his account to cover the marker at the time it was issued."

After the dismissal, Francis told The Associated Press that he wants to go after



Joe Francis, producer of the "Girls Gone Wild" videos, arrives at a screening of the film "The Next Three Days," in Los Angeles. A Nevada judge has thrown out a criminal indictment Wednesday Sept. 14, 2011 alleging that Francis didn't pay a \$2.5 million gambling debt to a Las Vegas Strip casino.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, file)

the casino and its billionaire chief executive, Steve Wynn, for false prosecution stemming from the May 2007 casino debt. He issued a news release proclaiming the court victory.

"They did stuff that if you

or I did it, we'd be in jail," Francis said in an interview. "They manipulated the entire process."

Wynn Resorts Ltd. spokeswoman Deanna Pettit declined comment.

Prosecutor Bernie Zadrows-

ki, who handled the criminal case as head of the Clark County District Attorney bad check unit, did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

Wynn won a civil lawsuit against Francis in 2009 over the debt, but an appeal was pending in Nevada Supreme Court. It was not immediately clear whether Wednesday's ruling would affect that case.

Francis' attorney, David Houston of Reno, said he believed the ruling showed that the criminal case never should have been filed. He said that prosecutors failed to present even "slight" or "marginal" evidence to suggest Francis had committed a crime.

"The Wynn Group's heavy-handed approach to collect money from Mr. Francis has failed utterly and completely," he said.

The casino debt case was one of several legal issues facing Francis, a businessman who made millions of dollars marketing videotapes featuring young women flashing their breasts. □

Perry campaigns in Virginia, jabs at Romney

EMILY HOLDEN

RICHMOND, Va. — Texas Gov. Rick Perry rallied the faithful Wednesday at a fundraiser for the Virginia Republican Party, saying that GOP victories in congressional special elections in New York and Nevada had re-energized conservatives and signaled that the Democratic Party and Obama administration are “on the ropes.”

Speaking to a crowd of about 1,100 party donors, Perry positioned himself as the candidate who offers the most vivid contrast to President Obama. “We don’t need to elect a nominee who’s going to blur the lines between this administration and the Republican Party,” Perry said in a dig at chief rival Mitt Romney. “We need a nominee that draws a distinct and clear contrast, and I will tell you one thing, President Obama and I have a clear contrast.”

After the event, Perry attacked the former Massachusetts governor directly, echoing his previous claim that Democrat Michael Dukakis, when he governed the Bay State, created jobs at three times Romney’s rate. He said Romney’s job creating record as former Winter Olympics CEO didn’t transfer to his time as governor.

“If Americans’ big issue is getting back to work...I’m the guy who’s got the record to do it,” Perry said.

Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell introduced the Texas governor at the luncheon at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, saying he’s the “envy of the nation when it comes to (being a) job-creation machine.” But despite their friendly rapport, McDonnell did not endorse Perry and said after the luncheon that he “likes a lot of the candidates.”

Perry patted McDonnell on



Republican presidential candidate Texas Gov. Rick Perry arrives at Trump Tower in New York Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011, for a meeting with real estate developer Donald Trump.

(AP Photo/Craig Ruffile)

the back for his state’s high business-friendly ranking. But when asked after the event if he might consider McDonnell as a vice presidential running mate, Perry said that is “thinking too far ahead.”

Perry’s appearance in Richmond was one of two stops for the Republican presidential frontrunner in a key swing

state with a very conservative Republican Party base. The Texas governor played to the social conservative bloc Wednesday morning with a speech in Lynchburg at Liberty University.

After taking a political beating from his presidential rivals for two days, Perry found a very friendly audience in Lynchburg and took advantage of it to open up about his personal background. Throughout his address, Perry quoted scripture and spoke in language full of Christian perspectives

and turns of phrase.

“God uses broken people to reach a broken world,” he told students at Liberty University, which was founded by the late Rev. Jerry Falwell. “The mistakes of yesterday say nothing about the possibilities of tomorrow. Don’t live in fear, live in faith.”

Perry talked about his childhood in small-town Paint Creek, Texas, his faith, and even his poor college GPA. As a “spiritually lost” 27-year-old, he said he was forced to learn to trust in God years after graduating from Texas A&M and serving in the Air Force. He said he learned that people are designed to live in relationship with their Creator and each other, and that’s what makes him happiest. Perry received a generally warm reception from a packed auditorium full of students and residents. Liberty senior Jordan Wilson, 21, said he appreciated the way Perry tied his life story together with his religion, noting, “It was really his faith that gave him the direction he has today.” □

Downturn’s punch varies among the poor, census data shows

JASON DEPARLE

SABRINA TAVERNISE

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WASHINGTON — The numbers spilling from the Census Bureau’s poverty report this week were a disquieting reminder that a weak economy continues to spread broad and deep pain. And so it does. But not evenly.

The Midwest is battered, but the Northeast escaped with a lighter knock.

The incomes of young adults have plunged — but those of older Americans have actually risen.

On the whole, immigrants have weathered the storm a bit better than people born here. In rural areas, poverty remained unchanged last year, while in suburbs it reached the highest level since 1967, when the Census Bureau first tracked it.

Yet one old problem has not changed: The poor have rapidly gotten poorer. The report, an annual gauge of prosperity and pain, is sure to be cited in coming months as lawmakers make difficult decisions

about how to balance the competing goals of cutting deficits and preserving safety nets.

Its overall findings — income down, poverty up — are hardly surprising in the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

Of equal interest, with fiscal knives in the air, are the looks at who has suffered the most and who has largely escaped.

“Certainly in a recession we want to put resources where they’re most needed,” said Eugene Steurle of the Urban Institute, who served as a Treasury official under Democratic and Republican presidents. “And in a recession, needs change dramatically from group to group.”

Perhaps no households have weathered the downturn better than those headed by people 65 and older, whose incomes rose 5.5 percent from 2007 to 2010.

By contrast, household income for every other age group fell.

Among people ages 15 to 24, it plunged 15.3 percent.

Partly that is because older Americans get more of their income from pensions and investments, so a job shortage hurts them less.

Also, the generation now retiring has been the most prosperous in history, so as poorer Americans die off, the income of the age group grows.

Such data is likely to feed longstanding debates about generational equity, since the largest portion of safety net spending goes to those 65 and older, through Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

“We are spending too much of our limited resources on the elderly, and not investing enough in programs for younger Americans, such as job training and education,” said Isabel V. Sawhill, a budget expert at the Brookings Institution. Another noteworthy finding comes from the suburbs, which have traditionally had the lowest rates of poverty. Suburban dwellers experienced a sharp increase toward the end of the past decade. □

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Final probe of Gulf oil spill finds many culprits

JENNIFER A. DLOUHY

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WASHINGTON – Nearly a year and a half after the Deepwater Horizon disaster, federal investigators on Wednesday delivered a final accident report that widely casts blame for the lethal explosion and proposed changes they billed as essential to boosting the safety of offshore drilling.

Although the findings dovetail with the conclusions of other oil spill probes, the joint investigation by the Coast Guard and the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement provided the most comprehensive account yet of what went wrong at BP's Macondo well.

The panel's 217-page re-



In this April 21, 2010 file photo taken in the Gulf of Mexico more than 50 miles southeast of Venice on Louisiana's tip, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig is seen burning. A BP scientist identified a previously unreported deposit of flammable gas that could have played a role in the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, but the oil giant failed to divulge the finding to government investigators for as long as a year, according to interviews and documents obtained by The Associated Press.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert, File)

port also provided fodder for legal battles over the disaster and the foundation

for new stepped-up government mandates on offshore wells and the emer-

gency equipment that secures them.

Federal regulators are expected to seize on dozens of recommendations for stiffening drilling standards, including additional barriers at some offshore wells and more safeguards in blowout preventers that are designed as a last defense against surging oil and gas.

The government also may heed the panel's recommendation for better monitoring of unexpected pressure changes that can precede serious losses of well control and require cutting-edge technology for detecting them.

That would give regulators a better way of tracking close calls offshore, because right now, oil and gas companies are only obligated to tell the government when they have lost control of wells, said Andy Radford, a senior policy adviser for the American Petroleum Institute.

"This would just allow more information and better ability for the regulator to gauge the risks of the activity," Radford said.

The ocean energy bureau is set to soon kick off a long rule-making process that responds to the failures identified by the report and its suggested changes. But bureau director Michael Bromwich said he did not anticipate the government would impose any new mandates immediately, like the bolstered well design requirements that were rapidly put in place after last year's spill.

Ultimately, federal investigators said the central

cause of the disaster was the failure of cement at the bottom of the well that did not block oil and gas from flowing into drilling pipe and onto the Deepwater Horizon rig.

But the inquiry also blamed risky decisions by BP and said an "overall complacency" of workers on the rig contributed to the disaster that claimed 11 crew members' lives and triggered the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

The panel concluded that "the loss of life at the Macondo site . . . and the subsequent pollution of the Gulf of Mexico through the summer of 2010 were the result of poor risk management, last minute changes to plans, failure to observe and respond to critical indicators, inadequate well control response and insufficient emergency bridge response training by companies and individuals responsible for drilling at the Macondo well and for the operation of the Deepwater Horizon."

Although the report honed in on fatal mistakes by BP, it also flagged shortcomings by Transocean, which owned and operated the Deepwater Horizon rig, and Halliburton Co., which performed cementing at the site.

"At the end of the day, it hammers BP more than they've been hammered already," said Eric Smith, associate director of Tulane University's Energy Institute in New Orleans. But it also "sucks in Halliburton and Transocean and says 'you don't get off scot-free either.'" □

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HILARY HOWARD

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NEW YORK — Parisians have petanque. London society has croquet. And though New Yorkers have dallied with both, many have now discovered a lawn game from the flyover states.

Cornhole, a simple yet addictive pastime with Midwestern origins, is sweeping the Northeast. This summer — from the Jersey Shore to Brooklyn, and from the Hamptons to the Catskills — the satisfying thump of weighted sacks hitting plywood reverberated across New York area beaches, lawns, rooftops and city sidewalks. Its mainstay is fall and the football season, when cornhole is also known as “tailgate toss” (a name that might sound better to folks who prefer to avoid the rude double entendre). One of the men responsible for spreading the gospel of cornhole in New York is Bill Hemmer, 46, the Fox News anchor. “I find it to be a very charming, passive, social summer game until you get to the moment where you have a close game and you have to score or you lose,” he said recently in his back-

yard in Sag Harbor, N.Y., before a game involving four players, including one new convert. “What I find is they remember the day that they first played. For the first-timers, it makes a memory for them.” Hemmer discovered the game when he was visiting his hometown, Cincinnati, in 2005. “I heard through friends and family back home that they were playing tailgate toss as the next wave of entertainment before the Cincinnati Bengals games,” he said. He flew back to New York with a cornhole set stowed in the luggage compartment of his Delta flight. And last Christmas, he bought sets for several Fox staff members. The game is simple: Players throw beanbags (purists throw bags filled with corn kernels) at two angled wooden platforms with holes in the middle that face each other at an approximate distance of 27 feet. If the bag lands on the board: 1 point. If the bag goes through the hole: 3. The first individual, or team of two, that reaches 21 points wins. The details can vary about how you score a victory.



Meagan Campol competes in a league for the game cornhole at Good Co. in New York, Sept. 12, 2011. The game, played by tossing bean bags into wooden platforms with holes at an approximate distance of 27 feet, originated as a simple pastime with Midwestern origins and is sweeping the Northeast.

(Kirsten Luce/The New York Times)

“All my friends play by different rules,” Hemmer said. “For me, we play to 21 and then whoever wins by an additional 2 points wins, but for others, (if they go over 21 points) they go back to 16 points, or 18, or 11,” he said.

But there are also sticklers. “The viability of cornhole will rely on uniform rules and equipment,” said Michael Whitton, 70, president and founding member of the American Cornhole Association, one of many online attempts to organize the

game into something official. “We polled people as to rules, got a consensus and established them,” he said. The association now has over 34,000 members and sponsors tournaments as far away as Vanuatu in the South Pacific.

“The growth of the game is staggering,” Whitton said, theorizing that the military has been responsible for its international popularity. “I’ve got pictures of guys playing in Afghanistan while holding their M-16s,” he said. But what most people hold while playing is a cold beer.

The brand Keystone Light has caught on to this and is hoping to win over beer and cornhole lovers alike with its own gimmicky version of the game: canhole, involving 18-, 24- and 30-can boxes with holes cut into them for an impromptu pickup game. □

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Kenya warned about pipe explosion danger

TOM ODULA

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The Kenyan government was repeatedly warned about the dangers of people living on top of a gasoline pipeline that leaked fuel and exploded days ago, killing 95 people, experts said.

Families living in Kenya's slums are vulnerable to explosions, electrocution, fires, poisoning and other disasters because politicians anxious for votes won't enforce city codes, they said Wednesday.

The three largest slums in the capital of Nairobi — home to over 500,000 people — are located on land unsuitable for human habitation, according to 2008 research by the University of Nairobi, said Peter M. Ngau, a professor in the department of urban and regional planning at the university.

The report, which was presented to government, had warned that the Sinai slum

was built on top of a gasoline pipeline and a sewer leading from the industrial

to those who survived the fire.

The death toll from the di-



Kenya Red Cross personnel carry the lifeless body of a victim of a gasoline pipeline explosion in a slum area of Nairobi, Kenya, Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011, as others crowd around the site of the explosion. A leaking gasoline pipeline in Kenya's capital exploded on Monday, turning part of a slum into an inferno in which scores of people were killed and more than 100 hurt.

(AP Photo/Khalil Senosi)

center. On Monday the pipeline burst a gasket, gushing gasoline into the sewer, where it ignited as hundreds of slum residents were fetching it, according

saster rose to 95 on Wednesday as more people died of their injuries, said Pamela Indiaka, an official with the Kenya Red Cross. One person died on Tuesday night and six people died Wednesday in the hospital, she said.

Another body was also recovered from a river which cuts across the slum.

More than 100 people were hospitalized with burns.

"It's just disasters waiting to happen," said Ngau, the professor. "It is just by the grace of God that they (disasters) do not happen more."

In Kibera, Kenya's largest slum, residents live in mud-walled, iron-roofed structures dangerously close to railway lines that carry fuel and dangerous chemicals, he said. In Mathare, the second biggest slum, people live on steep slopes prone to mudslides. In the third largest slum of Mukuru, shacks sprung up under high voltage electricity lines.

Residents of Sinai, the site of Monday's fire, were living there illegally and should have been moved, said Wanjau Maina, the chairman of the Institution of Engineers of Kenya.

Caribbean Briefs

Protesters demand ouster

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Protesters calling for the withdrawal of U.N. peacekeepers from Haiti clashed with police Wednesday outside the earthquake-damaged Haitian National Palace.

The protesters hurled rocks at Haitian police in riot gear and the officers responded by firing volleys of tear gas canisters toward the crowd of several hundred demonstrators.

As the crowd dispersed, many protesters fled into the Champ de Mars, the park that became a huge encampment of tents and shanties following the January 2010 earthquake. There did not appear to be any injuries among protesters, who said they wanted to see a withdrawal of the U.N. troops who have helped keep order in Haiti since 2004, when political violence engulfed the country. □

Pleading for Gitmo releases

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Tunisia will soon send a mission to the United States to plead for the repatriation of its five remaining citizens held at the Guantanamo Bay detention center, a Justice Ministry representative said Wednesday. Kamel Belhassen was addressing a conference sponsored by a British organization to raise awareness about the detainees.

The gathering comes as Tunisians are striving to move forward following a popular uprising that ousted dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in January.

Of the 775 detainees that passed through the gates of the Guantanamo facility since its opening in 2002, 12 were Tunisians. Of those, five were repatriated to third countries and two others were returned to Tunisia in 2007 and imprisoned. □

Govt to ban texting while driving

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Legislators in Puerto Rico have amended a law to ban drivers from using their cell phones without hands-free equipment. Those caught texting or talking on their phones will face a \$100 fine starting January 2013.

Ambulance drivers are exempt from the law, but commercial and school bus drivers are not. A study has found that seven of 10 drivers in Puerto Rico occasionally talk on a cell phone while driving.

Senators on Wednesday also approved a separate law that punishes street races with a \$4,000 fine and up to six months in prison for repeat offenders. □

Govt to install \$6.6M of solar panels

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico is investing \$6.6 million in solar energy panels that it plans to install in homes, businesses, airports and schools across the U.S. Caribbean territory. Commerce and Economic Development Secretary Jose Perez-Riera says the government will invest a total of \$290 million in the next decade to promote renewable energy projects.

One of the first projects will be the installation of panels at a regional airport in Ponce, Puerto Rico's second-largest city.

Port Authority Director Alberto Escudero said Wednesday that the \$1.7 million project will supply 750 kilowatts of energy. Puerto Rico uses petroleum to generate nearly 70 percent of its power, which costs twice that of the U.S. mainland. □



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Panetta: US will pursue Pakistan-based militants

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT (AP) — Defense Secretary Leon Panetta expressed frustration with Pakistan's government on Wednesday, warning that the U.S. will not allow the attacks on U.S. forces from Pakistan-based insurgents like the Haqqani network to continue. Pointing to the 20-hour assault against the U.S. Embassy and NATO headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan, that finally ended Wednesday, Panetta said it is unacceptable that the Haqqanis are able to launch such deadly attacks and then flee to safety across the border in Pakistan.

"The message they need to know is: we're going to do everything we can to defend our forces," Panetta told reporters traveling with



Pakistani paramilitary troops detain suspects during an operation against target killers and the extortion mafia at a troubled area in Karachi, Pakistan, Wednesday, Sept 14, 2011. Over one hundred people have lost their lives in the past week in a fresh wave of violence which has crippled Pakistan's largest city of Karachi.

(AP Photo/Fareed Khan)

him to San Francisco, California, for meetings with Australian officials. He refused to say whether the U.S. plans to take any

new military actions, but there has been an escalating U.S. campaign of drone strikes into Pakistan's border regions. The Haqqanis

are a lethal terror group based in Pakistan's lawless border area of Pakistan.

"Time and again we've urged the Pakistanis to exercise their influence over these kinds of attacks from the Haqqanis, and we have made very little progress in that area," Panetta said. "I'm not going to talk about how we're going to respond. ... We're not going to allow these types of attacks to go on."

U.S. officials have blamed the Haqqani network for the nearly daylong assault on the heavily guarded Afghan capital. The attack left 27 dead, including police, civilians and attackers, officials said.

Panetta's remarks reflect growing U.S. impatience over Islamabad's reluctance to go after the Haqqanis, who are con-

nected to both the Taliban and al-Qaida and present the most significant threat to Afghanistan's stability. U.S. officials have repeatedly pressed the Pakistanis to move against insurgent havens in the border region, including in North Waziristan.

The Haqqanis use the lawless territory to launch attacks against U.S. and Afghan forces across the border.

U.S. relations with Pakistan have been rocky amid complaints about the increased American drone attacks across the border. But they worsened after the U.S. special operations forces crossed into Pakistan in May to raid the Abbottabad compound where al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden had been hiding for years. □

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Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat

For Palestinians, U.N. gamble is worth the risk

ISABEL KERSHNER

© 2011 New York Times

KALANDIA, West Bank – It is far from clear what will happen when the Palestinians go to the United Nations next week to seek recognition of statehood. But the initiative is engaging a

lives. Instead, they braced for possible punitive steps by the United States and Israel.

"Abu Mazen is doing a good thing, but the reactions could be bad," said Khairiyya Abd al-Rahman, 66, a matronly resident of

the eruption of a third uprising, they warn that something is bound to give eventually if there is no measurable progress.

"Of course frustration can turn to chaos," said Najeh Abd al-Majid, another resident of the camp, a fre-

representation to that of a nonmember observer state, comparable to the Holy See.

Israel and the United States have tried to stop the show-down altogether, warning of dire consequences. Israel has not spelled out the possible fallout of a vote, but some on the right have called for the suspension of the transfer of tax revenues to the Palestinian Authority, the cancellation of agreements and the annexation of territory containing Jewish settlement blocs in the West Bank.

There has been talk in Washington of cutting funding as well.

Yet the Palestinian public's mood is strongly in favor of the U.N. bid, whatever the risks.

"We have to do it," said Selwa Yassin, 51, from the village of Ein Yabrud in the Ramallah district.

"The consequences," Yassin said, "cannot be worse than losing all of Palestine." For now, the Palestinian leadership is trying to foster a festive atmosphere.

In Ramallah on Tuesday, volunteers distributed to store owners and motorists flags emblazoned with the campaign logo "U.N. Palestine State No. 194," a reference to the goal of becoming the 194th U.N. member. Those acquainted with the details say that the aspiration is to become a full-member state.

"We do not want an hon-

orary position," said Qusai Khatib, 40, a barber and a teacher in Kalandia. "This would have no taste."

For Palestinians seeking independence, even virtual statehood will represent a new phase in a long struggle. But in a reflection of the Palestinian leadership's conflicted attitude toward its own initiative, Abbas appears to want to shake up things abroad while avoiding any major turmoil at home.

His instructions are for peaceful rallies to take place in the center of Palestinian cities, far away from any friction points with the Israelis.

Organizers have called on the Palestinian public to rally twice, on Sept. 21, the opening of the general debate in the U.N. General Assembly, and on Sept. 23, when Abbas is scheduled to address the forum.

"From our side, no confrontations, no chaos," Abbas told reporters in Ramallah last week. "Our instructions were very strict: Don't go to the roadblocks, don't make any friction with the Israelis, don't run to the cities, don't react."

The Palestinian leadership has recruited Abdallah Abu Rahma, an advocate of nonviolence and a leader of the popular resistance movement from Bilin, a West Bank village, as the coordinator of the "Palestine 194" campaign. □



Palestinians wave flags in support of an upcoming bid for unilateral statehood, in Ramallah on the West Bank, Sept. 13, 2011. Palestinians are rallying in anticipation for the bid to be brought before the United Nations later this month.

(Rina Castelnovo/The New York Times)

Palestinian public that had become deeply cynical after 20 years of intermittent Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Many Palestinians here in this refugee camp between Ramallah and Jerusalem said that they were excited by the prospect of their territory being declared a state, but that they recognized that it would not immediately improve their

the refugee camp.

Abu Mazen is the popular name of the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas.

Going to the United Nations remains a high-stakes gamble for Abbas. Whether it succeeds or fails, the Palestinians' frustration is likely to increase if their reality does not change.

And while many Palestinians say they do not foresee

quent point of clashes between Palestinian youths and the Israeli military.

When the annual U.N. gathering begins Monday, the Palestinian leadership could take its statehood bid to the Security Council, where the United States has vowed to use its veto, or it could opt for a vote in the General Assembly, a more modest route that would upgrade the Palestinian

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Flipkart moves fast in India

VIKAS BAJAJ

BANGALORE, India – Several months ago, when Prabhu Kumar could not find a book he wanted in bookstores here, he found it online at Amazon.com for \$10. But he had to pay more than \$9 in fees to have Amazon ship it to him. Kumar, a software programmer, said he would not be doing that again. He now shops on India's answer to Amazon – FlipKart.com – which delivers books, phones and other items in as little as 24 hours at no extra cost. Kumar doesn't have to pay FlipKart a single rupee until a courier bearing his books arrives at his door. He can then hand over cash or a credit card. "I think it perfectly fits the Indian mentality," Kumar. While dozens of electronic commerce firms have recently sprung up to capitalize on India's growing Internet use, they have a problem. Indians are not yet comfortable with shopping on the Web. Many of them remain unwilling to use credit cards online. So the Indian retailers have gone to great lengths to gain customers. Customers may pay in cash on delivery, and the company fields delivery squads to ensure shipments get to customers quickly. One recent afternoon, four FlipKart delivery men loitered at a bungalow in the Koramangala section of Bangalore where the company started. When a small delivery van arrived from the company's warehouse, the men rushed to take out two large duffel bags filled with packages that they put onto two tables in the house. After scanning the packages with hand-held computers, they put the boxes into large backpacks, which they carried on their backs as they rode off on motorcycles to deliver them. Online sales still make up a small portion of overall retail spending – one estimate pegs it at \$10 billion, a tiny fraction of India's \$500 billion retail market – but they are growing fast. FlipKart says it had revenue of 500 million rupees (\$11

million) in its last fiscal year, and is now clocking sales of about 10 million rupees a day. SnapDeal.com, a coupon and deals site similar to Groupon, expects sales of 1.5 billion rupees this year, up from almost nothing the year before. The top executives of the Future Group, India's largest retail company, says its daily online sales are on pace to triple between now and March. "This time it is for real," said Kishore Biyani, the founder and chief executive of the Future Group, referring to an earlier wave of e-commerce euphoria in the early 2000s. "This is the biggest thing to happen in India."



A courier with FlipKart packages starts his route at a distribution hub in Bangalore, India, Aug. 17, 2011. (Kainaz Amaria/The New York Times)

That rapid growth has drawn the attention of venture capitalists who poured \$183 million into 20 e-commerce firms in the last 12 months, up from \$61 million for 13 firms in the previous 12 months, according to Venture Intelligence, a research firm. The rapid growth has also attracted the notice of U.S. online retailers. Amazon, which has a software development office in Bangalore, is now building a warehouse and hiring employees for an Indian site, according to two industry officials. And earlier this year, Groupon bought an Indian website, SoSasta.com. But, like in frothy Silicon Valley, some Indian analysts and investors are starting to question the frenzied deal-making. These skeptics find it difficult to justify the high prices venture capitalists are paying to invest in unprofitable Indian e-com-

merce firms. For instance, VCCircle, a news site, recently reported that FlipKart may soon raise \$150 million, which would give it a \$1 billion valuation. (Executives at the company declined to discuss its financial plans.) India has 50 million to 100 million Internet users, according to various analysts, and the number is growing by about 30 percent a year. JuxtConsult, a New Delhi-based research firm, estimates that 17 million people bought something online this year, up from 10 million last year. The Indian government estimates that household consump-

tion has increased by more than two-thirds in the last five years, and most of that increase has come in the purchase of nonfood items. "It seems to be more for real than a flash in the pan," said Kanwaljit Singh, who is a senior managing director at Helion Advisors, which has invested in about a half-dozen Indian e-commerce sites, including MakeMyTrip. But capitalizing on India's growth online will not be easy. Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal (who are not related), the founders of FlipKart, have had to do things that their American or European counterparts would never have. They have set up delivery operations in 13 big Indian cities like Bangalore, Mumbai and New Delhi because Indian shippers do not have the delivery and package-tracking abilities that FedEx and UPS provide for its U.S. customers. □



Sachin Bansal, left, and Binny Bansal, founders of the Indian e-commerce company FlipKart, at their desks in the companies head offices in Bangalore, India, Aug. 17, 2011. FlipKart is India's answer to Amazon, it delivers books, phones and other consumer items, but with no delivery charge, also allowing customers to pay cash on arrival.

(Kainaz Amaria/The New York Times)

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STRAW DOGS

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STARTING FRIDAY 16

PG-13

I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DOES IT

Sarah Jessica Parker Pierce Brosnan

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Fri 5:15 / 7:15 / 9:15 / 11:20
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PG-13

SHARK NIGHT 3D

Sara Paxton Dustin Milligan

With Spanish Subtitles

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Fri 5:20 / 7:25 / 9:35 / 11:40
Sat 1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:25 / 9:35 / 11:40
Sun & Hol 1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:25 / 9:35

Katie Holmes Guy Pearce

R

DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK

Mon - Fri 4:40 / 7:00
Sat, Sun & Hol 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00

Emma Stone Bryce Dallas Howard

PG-13

the Help

Mon - Thurs 5:40 / 8:45
Fri 5:40 / 8:45 / 11:45
Sat 2:35 / 5:40 / 8:45 / 11:45
Sun & Hol 2:35 / 5:40 / 8:45

Nicholas D'Agosto Emma Bell

R

CRAZY STUPID LOVE

Steve Carell Ryan Gosling

With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Thurs 9:15
Fri - Sat 9:15 / 11:45
Sun & Hol 9:15

Jessica Alba Joel McHale

PG

3D Version

Mon - Thurs 9:10
Fri - Sat 9:10 / 11:10
Sun & Hol 9:10

Zoe Saldana Michael Vartan

PG-13

COLOMBIANA

Mon - Thurs 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20
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STARTING NEXT WEEK SEPTEMBER 22 - THE LION KING: 3D

Teenage girls' back-to-school look is back to the demure

MARISA MELTZER

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NEW YORK — "It's all about grandma chic," said Chelsea Roberts, who was surveying the clothes in SoHo one Thursday last month while back-to-school shopping. Roberts, 17, is about to begin her senior year at Roland Park Country School in Baltimore.

She brought along her friend Carley Callis, 18, a recent alumna of her school who plans to study fashion at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and had reinvention on her mind. "Going from a girls' school to an arts school, I can unleash what I always want to wear, and can let go a bit more," Callis said, adding that for fall she's into voluminous and "obscure proportions." Roberts agreed that this would be cool. "Everything's not just mini

etta, Ga., loves the winsome actress Emma Watson's style and thinks that "clean lines are replacing the oftentimes offensive and trashy, short and tight, Snooki-esque styles."

Sammy Novick, a 17-year-old senior at Marin Catho-

no longer cool or edgy." She pointed to young actresses and budding style icons like Elle and Dakota Fanning, Chloe Moretz and Hailee Steinfeld (a current face of Miu Miu) as examples of looking "cutting edge, age-appropriate,



Nora Delf, 15, looks at dresses at Topshop in SoHo, New York. Many girls around the country are putting aside their tight dresses and cutoff shorts in favor of maxi skirts, capes, trouser jeans and oversize sweaters.

(Emily Berl/The New York Times)



Chelsea Roberts, 17, of Baltimore, right, watches as Carley Callis, 18, tries on Rag & Bone boots, at Topshop in SoHo, New York.

(Emily Berl/The New York Times)

this, tight this anymore," she said.

They're not the only ones gravitating toward demure looks for the new season. Many girls are putting aside their tight dresses and cutoff shorts in favor of maxi skirts, capes, trouser jeans and oversize sweaters.

Goodbye, Jersey Shore; hello, Harry Potter. Jenna Dotson, 17, a senior at Pope High School in Mari-

lic High School in Northern California, has scarves from Ethiopia, henley shirts from Madewell, boots from Urban Outfitters and "items of clothing in rusty red and sea foam or teal" in her back-to-school shopping list.

"The uber-sexy thing has reached a saturation point," said Jane Keltner de Valle, the fashion news director at Teen Vogue. "It's

respectful of themselves — and wearing Prada straight off the runway."

Topshop is one such store that Keltner de Valle said managed to be "tongue in cheek and ironic about being dowdy." It's also the first destination where Roberts, who counts among her favorite designers Lanvin, Balenciaga, Chloe, Marc Jacobs, and Halston Heritage, wanted to shop.

"I'm looking to see what I gravitate to," she said, and soon plucked a mustard-colored blouse with a Peter Pan collar off the rack. "I can dress it up or just wear it with jeans."

As far as her dislikes, she is against jeggings: "They do nothing. They're not even warm."

"They're heinous," Callis chimed in. While the indie rock band Dinosaur Jr. played on Topshop's sound system, Callis noted that she approves of the '90s, which fashion seems to be mining. "You couldn't even tell what anyone's bodies looked like," she said approvingly, while eyeing a cocoon sweater that was "very Alexander Wang." □

A gentle nod to country, with some darkness

JON CARAMANICA

© 2011 New York Times

No act in contemporary pop is more careful than the bionic country trio Lady Antebellum, which never leaves a note out of place, which never lets a feeling spill outside the lines. It takes basic components — male-female harmony,

of Kelley and Scott. (Haywood sings harmonies, contributes songwriting and plays various instruments.) Kelley is a light touch of velvet, a blue-eyed soul man shoehorned into country. Scott is somewhat more natural, but only barely. She's a tender singer with a naive affect, all the better



From left: Charles Kelley, Hillary Scott and Dave Haywood of Lady Antebellum, perform Irving Plaza in New York, Sept. 13, 2011. As part of their Tuesday night performance, the trio promoted their newest album, "Own the Night."

(Chad Batka/The New York Times)

sturdy pop arrangements with light brushes of country, an unerring sense of when to shift a song from desperate to redemptive — and arranges them in several different ways, with mostly similar results. These are plain and obvious tricks, shopworn from years of deployment. Lady Antebellum songs don't try to hide anything. It's infuriating. And brilliant — did I mention brilliant?

"Own the Night" (Capitol Nashville), the third Lady Antebellum album, elevates this group's fecklessness to high art. It makes no apologies for its blunt-force tactics. It owns its shamelessness. That cocksure stance helps to make it one of the most convincing albums of the year, a huge leap forward for a group that threatened to become famous without leaving a true mark.

Though it has three members — Charles Kelley, Hillary Scott and Dave Haywood — Lady Antebellum is essentially a duo, leaning heavily on the interlocking vocals

for duets of love and loss.

Those are the poles between which Lady Antebellum operates, and on this album the band is devastating at both ends. The blithe "Dancin' Away With My Heart" is a highlight, a prom-night closer in the making. During the verses Kelley and Scott trade lines, but they sing the wistful chorus together:

I haven't seen you in ages
Sometimes I find myself
wondering where you are
For me you'll always be 18
And beautiful

And dancing away with my heart

Kelley has grit in his voice, and he puts it to use here late in the song with the sultry come-on "I brushed your curls back so I could see your eyes," to which Scott responds giddily, "And the way you moved me it was like you were reading my mind." But while Kelley is the aggressor here, he and Scott have a flexible partnership: it's never clear who'll be the emotional heavy, and who'll be the wounded. □



Local Family Recognized for Animal Care Efforts

Mother & Son duo receive recognition for their fight for animal rights



ORANJESTAD – Jacqueline and Gilbert van Veen have been on a mission to save as many of the island's sick and stray dogs as they possibly can. A daunting task at best given the large number of stray and wild dogs here on Aruba; but today the van Veen's learned that they are not in the fight alone! Today, at a surprise presentation held at the Screaming Eagle Restaurant on Eagle Beach, the Van Veen's received a donation check of \$2,500.00 USD from the "Dushi and Friends Rescue Foundation".

The "Dushi and Friends Rescue Foundation" was recently formed in the USA to assist the van Veen's in their effort to create a proper home for more of the island's homeless and often abused stray dogs. The van Veen's currently operate a small kennel from their home but what profits they manage to turn are put right back into the care of the animals that they have taken in.

Some are dumped on their doorstep and some have been abandoned by their owners. Regardless, the van Veen's find it impossible to let a stray or injured dog go without care.

While in Aruba this past Christmas Holiday; a couple from the USA, Shelley Chadwick and Jon Mays, discovered a stray at their timeshare on Eagle Beach. The dog was such a hit at the resort with the kids and parents that they immediately set out to try and find a local home for the animal. After several days they discovered that the overpopulation of dogs on the island left little room for more pets in the local households. Faced with the dilemma of either leaving the dog uncared for or adopting her themselves; they chose the latter.

They named their dog "Dushi" which is Papiamentu for "Sweetheart". For a couple of days they managed to keep Dushi at their timeshare, but eventually they were gently

"reminded" that there was a "No Pets Allowed" policy at the resort so they began to seek out a proper place to leave her for the remainder of their vacation. The local pet store had an advertisement for Happy Tails Pet Hotel so Dushi was taken there to be cared for. Over the next six days Ms. Chadwick and Mr. Mays visited Dushi every day and became very close to Jacqueline and Gilbert and could see first-hand the love and attention they gave each and every animal in their care. It was extraordinary. At one point Gilbert mentioned his desire to find a way to fund a larger operation where they could take in more animals and care for more stray and sick dogs.

After Dushi relocated to the USA, the van Veen's and Ms. Chadwick stayed in touch with each other. Every so often Gilbert would tell her of a new animal they had taken in. One in particular had cruelly been thrown over their fence and in doing so the dog's spleen was ruptured. Rather than put the animal down, the van Veen's opted to pay for corrective surgery. It was during the surgery that the veterinarian discovered that the animal was also pregnant. Now the van Veen's faced a big veterinarian bill AND the

prospect of caring for a new litter of puppies.

This news prompted Ms. Chadwick and Mr. Mays to start the new "Dushi and Friends Rescue Foundation" on August 25th of this year. Said Ms. Shelley Chadwick: "Our goal is to help Gilbert and Jacqueline realize their dream of building a better home for the unloved and uncared-for dogs on Aruba. We have discovered through adopting our dog that the island's "Cunucu Dogs" have a fantastic mix of attributes from the mixing of so many breeds. They are incredibly loving, athletic, smart and Dushi has such a unique personality that we get many many, many compliments on her. Cunucu Dogs are incredibly good with kids as well." Mr. Mays added: "This initial \$2,500.00 was raised after only two weeks of work. Almost an afterthought if you will. Now that we are fully committed, we hope that once we get some traction that we can raise much more annually to enable this to become a true "Game Changer" here on Aruba in the fight against animal cruelty and to help this wonderful family realize their dream."

Eventually Dushi and Friends will have a website with a PayPal link for credit card donations; but for now anyone wishing to

donate to the organization can send a check or money order to "Dushi and Friends" at P.O. Box 2186, Middleburg, VA 20118 USA; or donations may be dropped off at the La Quinta Resort Front Office at Eagle Beach; Shiva's Gold & Gems downtown or at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall; Kristie's Jewelry at the Paseo Herencia Mall; The Screaming Eagle Restaurant on Eagle Beach or the Shon Gecko Cocktail Bar also at the La Quinta Resort.

Dushi and Friends would like to acknowledge and thank the following people and companies that have donated funds to get this foundation started:

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Bakos, Barbara Black, Bryan Chadwick, John Clark, Lesley Clark, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Doucet, Christina Fulton, Mrs. Margaret Gardener, Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Johnson, Kristie's Jewelers – Aruba, Russell Lee, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Liberatore, Roger Mason, Lisa Michaux, Mrs. Heather Nesselrodte

Shiva's Gold & Gems – Aruba, Shon Gecko Cocktail Bar – Aruba

A special thanks to the Screaming Eagle Restaurant for hosting the special event and to Ursell Arends and friends for assisting in many of the arrangements. □

Aura Casino is where Players Win!



PALM BEACH - Mr. Matthew Pangione from USA discovered his lucky streak at the Aura Casino while playing on the brand new slot machines! He won a total amount of \$1,250.-! We happily would like to congratulate him on his winning. The center of Aruba has definitely shifted here at the Aura Casino. Come and try your luck, maybe you can be one of our next lucky winner!

Outstanding Service Award for De Palm Tours



ORANJESTAD - As travel companies gear up for their busy Winter season months, they also reflect on accomplishments achieved in previous seasons, taking the time to acknowledge superior service levels at premier destinations. De Palm Tours was on the receiving end of such season-end award as Thomas Cook, a giant multi-national travel organization presented compliments for a job-well-done, in a special ceremony which took place just recently. The "Outstanding Service Award" bestowed by the BIG 4, Thomas Cook Canada, Sunquest and Holiday House in Toronto, and Ontario Canada, was an-

nounced on August 22nd, 2011. It was given to suppliers including Ground Handlers and/or Hoteliers who have achieved excellence, as reflected in customer feedback obtained from surveys filled out on Thomas Cook flights coming home from various destinations, as well as from customer letters and reports receive by Thomas Cook throughout the year. Aruba's De Palm Tours, shared the distinction with other quality ground handling operators such as Costa Rica's Swiss Travel and Nassau's Majestic Tours who also received the top Outstanding Service Awards in the region. "We're proud of our

award," a De Palm Tours representative commented. "We are the ones in charge of first impressions and last impressions as we welcome passengers to Aruba, at the airport and the cruise ship terminal, and we bid them farewell at the end of their vacations. We realize the importance of those two Moments of Truth, of those two key interactions, and always strive to provide our passengers with the best, and smoothest experience, coming in and leaving Aruba. We're very pleased that our considerable efforts were noticed and acknowledged by our international partners." □

Aruba receives travel agents Fam Trip from the UK



Recently Aruba had the visit of a group of 14 travel agents from the United Kingdom, the agents came to Aruba for site inspections at different Hotels and to visit our multiple tourist attractions on land and sea. The agents consisted mostly of Thomson/First Choice from different counties of England, Wroxham Travel and Kenwood Travel, also came with the group a journalist for Travel Weekly the leading trade publication for Thomson Mrs. Jeanine Williamson. Mrs.

Williamson was very much amazed with everything she saw on the island and was very impressed by our museums, specially the antiquity museum located at Timbalstreet. The travel agents were accompanied by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority who had a very ample program combining site inspections at the hotels and site seeing of our landmarks and attractions, to give our visitors the best experience of Aruba. □

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A Sunset with wild Aruba dolphins



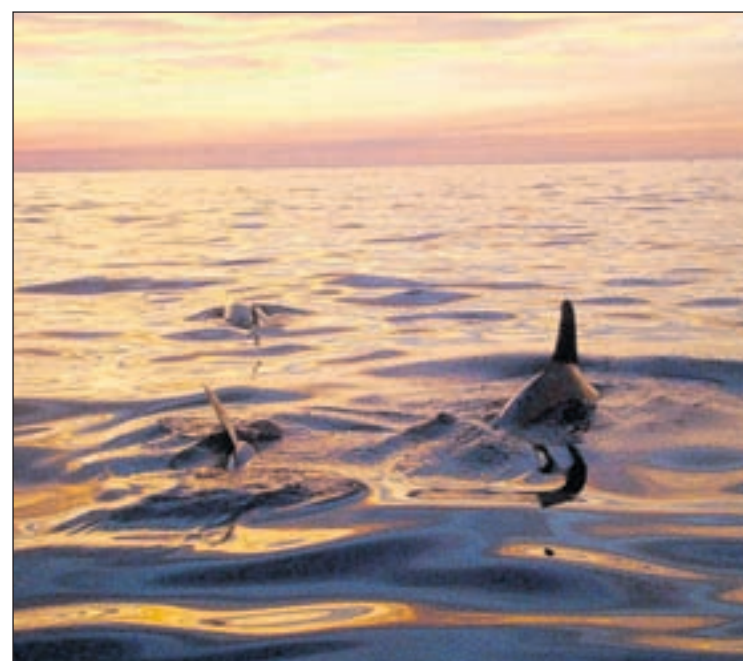
MANGEL HALTO – On Monday, Sept 12, 2011, at sunset, Giolina Henriquez of the Aruba Marine Mammal Foundation (AMMF), received a distress call, for a small pod of about 8 dolphins, behaving strangely at about 200 meters outside the Isla di Oro / Mangel Halto Reef, which in-

cluded a badly injured dolphin. They described the behavior as what we call “logging”, which is a “resting” behavior. On board of the rib of the Aruba Coastguard, AMMF approached the pod which luckily turned out to be an already known “bottlenose” dolphin- group,

Tursiops Truncatus, which indeed included two severely scarred dolphins. One of them, easily identifiable by a white scar patch at the dorsal fin, had been photo-documented and sighted several times since last year.

This dolphin and another large one in the group also have shaved scars along the ridge of their back behind the dorsal fin and bite rake marks all-over. One dorsal fin also has a healed horizontal cut at its top. They were now leisurely deep diving and are known to frequent this area close to shore, so no immediate action other than monitoring was necessary. A collection of photo documentation was taken for the Aruba dorsal fin ID -data base. AMMF would once more like to thank Steunpunt Kustwacht Aruba R. Paskel and commander R.N. Kelly and his entire staff on board the rib (esp. Emi Tromp), for their exceptional and valuable cooperation.

In Aruba the protocol for cases of dolphin/ whale emergencies is to immediately call the Coastguard at 5932789. □



Celebrating 28 years of Marriage in Aruba's underwater world



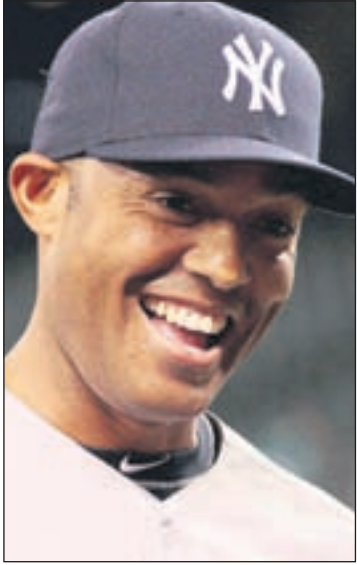
ORANJESTAD - Kent & Kim Gerber are on Aruba for their 28th wedding anniversary and their 24th trip to Aruba. They are staying at Club Arias, which is a bed and breakfast in Savaneta. Kent & Kim have 3 children, Kasha who is married to Josh Imel for 3 1/2 years, Kyle who just got married to Deone Maller last Sunday and Kyra who is a senior in high school. The Gerbers LOVE Aruba and it is their second home. Kent started a snorkel business at Club Arias called Aruba Bob snorkeling. They go to Mangel Halto and they have blasé fish water scooters that pull you around in the water. You can cover a lot of ground and you can see a lot more things. This past weekend, they met 3 turtles and could swim right beside it. Kent spends 20 weeks a year on Aruba so Stuart from the UK will also take people snorkeling with the blade fish so if you are interested in a snorkel tour, please e-mail arubabob@live.com or call 745-7459 and Kent or Stuart would like to show you the best underwater snorkeling in Aruba. □



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Mo 'em down



New York Yankees closer Mariano Rivera smiles after the team beat the Seattle Mariners in a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011, in Seattle. The Yankees won 3-2. Rivera earned his 600th save, moving within one of Trevor Hoffman's major league record, by closing out the New York Yankees' 3-2 win over the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday night.

Associated Press
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What's next for NBA players after talks setback

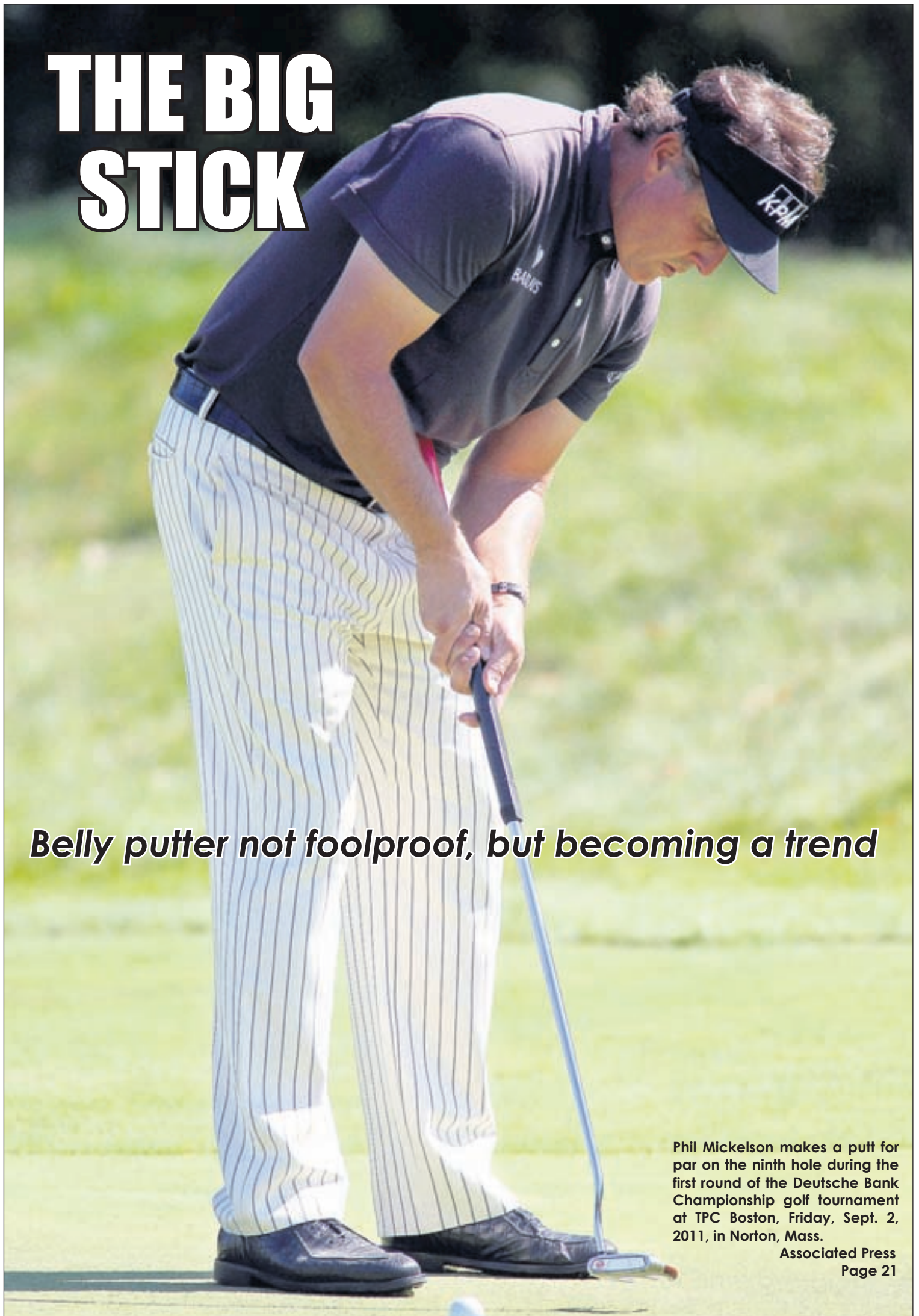
By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Billy Hunter hoped to deliver good news when he meets with NBA players on Thursday in Las Vegas. Instead, the executive director of the players' association isn't even sure how he will answer all their questions. No progress was made toward ending the 2½-month lockout during a meeting with owners Tuesday, and Hunter might have to tell players to look elsewhere if they want to be paid to play basketball anytime soon. "There are a lot of guys, many marquee players now, who have offers to go outside the country."

Continued on Page 22

THE BIG STICK



Belly putter not foolproof, but becoming a trend

Phil Mickelson makes a putt for par on the ninth hole during the first round of the Deutsche Bank Championship golf tournament at TPC Boston, Friday, Sept. 2, 2011, in Norton, Mass.

Associated Press
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WNBA Playoffs

Lynx open playoffs, favorites to win WNBA title



This Aug. 23, 2011 file photo shows New York Liberty's Cappie Pondexter (23) getting off a shot over Phoenix Mercury's Temeka Johnson (2) and Marie Ferdinand-Harris (9) during the first quarter in a WNBA basketball game, in Phoenix. The postseason begins Thursday night with New York (19-15) visiting Indiana (21-13) in the East and Seattle (21-13) hosting Phoenix (19-15) in a West series.

Associated Press

VIN A. CHERWOO
AP Sports Writer

Minnesota talked about winning the WNBA championship during training camp four months ago. The Lynx then had such a dominant season they lost consecutive games just once and won 22 of the last 26 to set the franchise record for victories. Now, they know they'll need to keep up their intensity when they open the conference semifinals Friday night against San Antonio — a team the Lynx went 4-0 against during the season.

"So far we are right on track to do what we set out to do in the beginning of the season," rookie Maya Moore said. "Every time we step out on the court, we're working for a championship, we're working to win." Minnesota (27-7) started out with three losses in their

first eight games, then had just four more the rest of the way. The Western Conference champions finished nine wins better than their previous franchise-best and return to the playoffs for the first time since 2004 — and the third time overall.

However, the Lynx also aren't getting ahead of themselves, and know they need to beat the Silver Stars (18-16) in the next step toward their goal. They swept San Antonio, but two wins came on last-second shots. "We'll take it one game at a time," veteran point guard Lindsay Whalen said. "We're just focused on San Antonio this weekend. We had a great regular season and that's over now. So on to the playoffs. We'll have the same pressure as everyone to win and stay alive." The postseason begins Thursday night with New

York (19-15) visiting Indiana (21-13) in the East and Seattle (21-13) hosting Phoenix (19-15) in a West series. Connecticut (21-15) hosts Atlanta (20-14) in the opener of the other East series on Friday night.

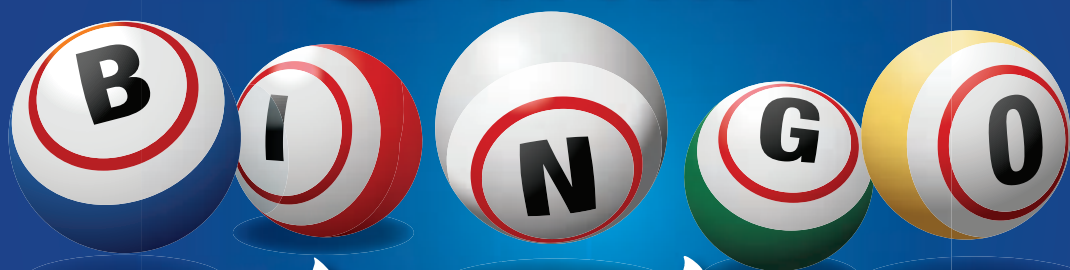
Minnesota's biggest challenge in the West figures to come from the Storm, who played without three-time MVP Lauren Jackson for a 20-game stretch due to a hip injury. Sue Bird and Swin Cash helped keep the defending champions in contention in Jackson's absence, and Seattle won eight of its last nine to take the conference's No. 2 seed. "Minnesota got out early and they had a wonderful season, but if you look at everyone else's record, we were right there," Cash said. "We kind of got through our trials and stuff and over some obstacles

through the regular season. I think we're mentally tough and we understand what it takes obviously to win a championship. We have core players on our team that have experienced that." One year after finishing 17-0 at home in the regular season and then 4-0 in the playoffs during their title run, the Storm were 15-2 at Key Arena — tying Connecticut for the league's best home record. Now, the Storm face a Mercury team they've beaten eight of the last nine meetings the last two seasons, including a sweep in the West finals a year ago.

"You have to beat the defending champions if you want to go anywhere," said Phoenix's Diana Taurasi, who won her fourth straight scoring title.

Continued on Page 19

Bonus



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Continued from Page 18

"It'll probably be the toughest task we have all year."

In the East, things are a lot tighter as two games separated first and fourth place in the standings, and the teams matched up in the conference semis split the four meetings with their opponents during the season. None of the teams in the East have won a championship, although Liberty coach John Whisenant and four of the players — Cappie Pondexter (Phoenix in 2007, 2009), Plenette Pierson (Detroit 2006, 2008), Nicole Powell (Sacramento 2005, coached by Whisenant) and Kara Braxton (Detroit 2006, 2008) — did with other teams.

"At this point, it's a matter of who wants it the most," Pondexter said. "We can add all our championships up and it still doesn't matter. It's a matter of us going out there and trying to win

and be the champions this year. Hopefully we're good enough, we can make a good run and win it."

New York, which had a chance to earn the conference's second seed on the last day, finished fourth and opens against a Fever squad that lost six of its last nine, including the final two after locking up the conference's No. 1 seed. Indiana, which reached the finals two years ago, reached 21 wins for the sixth time in seven years.

The road team won the first two meetings before the home team took the last two, including New York's win last Friday.

Indiana also has dealt with some injuries this year, though coach Lin Dunn said point guard Erin Phillips — who missed the last two games with an ankle injury — and seven-time All-Star Tamika Catchings — who has been nursing a sprained knee and sat out the season finale — will be ready to go.

Connecticut held off New York for the second seed, beating the Liberty on Sunday. The Sun face Angel McCoughtry and a Dream team that won 17 of its last 22 just one year after a surprising run to the WNBA finals.

The home team won all the matchups in the regular season, something that would favor the Sun in this series — especially they since have seven players with less than three years' experience, including MVP contender Tina Charles.

"For the first series and the first game, it is important for our group to have the first experience of the playoffs be here at home," veteran guard Kara Lawson said. "You're just more settled and more confident. It's more routine."

San Antonio won seven of eight to start the season, and then five of six to end it. In between, the Silver Stars struggled and went through a stretch in which they lost 10 of 12. □



Minnesota Lynx forward Maya Moore shoots over a Phoenix Mercury defender during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Phoenix on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011. The Lynx won 96-60. Associated Press

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

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www.driftwoodaruba.com

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm. □



Rivera locks up 600th save, Hoffman's record next

TIM BOOTH

AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Mariano Rivera's 600th save ended with a perfect strike. Only this one was thrown by his catcher.

Russell Martin cut down Ichiro Suzuki trying to steal second for the final out Tuesday and with that, Rivera became the second major league pitcher to reach the relief milestone.

One save shy of Trevor Hoffman's career record, the New York Yankees closer could get his first opportunity to equal the mark Wednesday in the series finale against Seattle.

"I don't know if we'll ever see it again," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said after Rivera — and Martin — nailed down New York's 3-2 victory over the Mariners. "That's how much of an accomplishment this is that he and Trevor Hoffman have done. Simply remarkable."

Thanks to Martin's quick peg to second, the game ended just the way Rivera has always preferred: with a chance for him to credit his teammates.

"It's an out. It doesn't de-



New York Yankees closer Mariano Rivera, left, is greeted by catcher Russell Martin after the team beat the Seattle Mariners in a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011, in Seattle. The Yankees won 3-2. It was Rivera's 600th save.

Associated Press

pend on me, it depends on the whole team," Rivera said. "This is a team job and it don't matter how you do it as long as you get him out."

Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter put the tag on Suzuki and smiled as he brought the souvenir ball to Rivera. One by one, New York players lined up near the

mound to give him hugs and high-fives.

No loud screams or wild gestures. No outlandish dogpiles. Just a respectful celebration that was pure Rivera. Simply do your job and move on.

"I'm not that type of guy. I'm a team player," Rivera said. "I tell you guys many times and I'll continue to tell

you, it doesn't depend on myself. It depends on my teammates giving me the opportunity to be able to pitch."

In a season in which Jeter reached one of baseball's grandest milestones with his 3,000th hit, Rivera has also added to his Yankees legacy. But even he acknowledged the biggest moment coming up will be save No. 602, when he passes Hoffman to become the most prolific closer in major league history.

Forget about savoring No. 600. A quick turnaround is part of the job.

"I don't think like that. We need another game tomorrow," Rivera said. "We're in a pennant race."

What's most amazing to some is that Rivera has racked up all those saves — plus 42 more in the post-season — primarily on the strength of one dominant pitch: his sizzling cut fastball. And he's done it in pressure-packed situations with the Yankees always in contention.

That wasn't lost on his teammates, especially those who at one time or another had to face Rivera from the

other side.

"Just to think, about every game Mariano has ever pitched has been a meaningful game," Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez said. "Every one of those saves meant something." That biting cutter was in play again Tuesday as Rivera notched his 41st save of the season in 46 chances. But Jeter scoffed at the idea that the right-hander has reached the 600 mark with just one pitch.

"First of all, it's not one pitch," he said. "He throws a cutter, he throws a two-seam, he throws a four-seam. It's all one speed, he throws it hard, but (Rivera) has perfected fastballs. I'm not surprised by it."

Robinson Cano provided the Yankees offense with a homer and two RBIs, while A.J. Burnett (10-11) won for the first time since Aug. 15 thanks to a season-high 11 strikeouts.

In other AL games it was Baltimore 4, Tampa Bay 2; Boston 18, Toronto 6; Texas 10, Cleveland 4; Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 0; Kansas City 4, Minnesota 0; L.A. Angels 6, Oakland 3; and N.Y. Yankees 3, Seattle 2. □



Philadelphia Phillies center fielder John Mayberry Jr. (15) catches a fly ball hit by Houston Astros' Chris Johnson during the fifth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011, in Houston.

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Clint Barmes hit a three-run homer and J.A. Happ pitched six solid innings against his former team as the Houston Astros beat Philadelphia 5-2 on Tuesday, preventing the Phillies from wrapping up a playoff spot.

The Phillies needed a win over Houston or a loss by St. Louis to clinch at least a wild-card berth. But the

NL East leaders will have to wait to secure their place in the postseason after the Cardinals beat the Pirates 6-4 on Tuesday night. Philadelphia starter Cole Hamels (14-8) fell to 0-3 in his last five starts against the Astros after going 3-0 in his first four career starts against them.

Happ (6-15), acquired from the Phillies last year as part

NL Roundup

Barmes' 3-run homer leads Astros over Phillies 5-2

of the Roy Oswalt trade, allowed four hits and one run with four strikeouts. Fernando Rodriguez threw two scoreless innings before David Carpenter took over for the ninth.

The Astros won their second straight game to avoid setting a franchise record for losses in a season. Their 97 defeats are tied for the club mark, which has been reached three other times, most recently in 1991.

Giants 3, Padres 2, 12 innings At San Francisco, Mark DeRosa hit a game-ending RBI single off second baseman Orlando Hudson's glove in the 12th inning as San Francisco edged San Diego.

DeRosa's two-out drive against Brad Bauch (0-2) just evaded Hudson, allow-

ing Cody Ross to score from the third.

Pablo Sandoval and Justin Christian also drove in a run for the Giants, who have won three straight. Ramon Ramirez (3-3) pitched a scoreless inning to get the win. Jason Bartlett had a two-run double for the Padres, who have lost five of six. Giants starter Matt Cain gave up one run and four hits, struck out six and walked three in 6 1-3 innings. He is 2-3 with a 2.01 ERA in his last eight outings.

Dodgers 5, Diamondbacks 4, 10 innings

At Los Angeles, Chris Young scored the go-ahead run on a bases-loaded walk in the 10th inning as Los Angeles beat Arizona.

Gerardo Parra sparked the

Diamondbacks with a tying homer off Hong-Chih Kuo with two out in the seventh, then a leadoff single in the 10th.

After Aaron Hill sacrificed and Justin Upton struck out, Javy Guerra (2-1) issued consecutive walks to Miguel Montero, Paul Goldschmidt and Young, helping Arizona win its second in a row and sixth in seven games.

In other NL games it was St. Louis 6, Pittsburgh 4; Cincinnati 2, Chicago Cubs 1; Atlanta 7, Florida 1; Washington 3, N.Y. Mets 2; Houston 5, Philadelphia 2; Milwaukee 2, Colorado 1, 11 innings; Arizona 5, L.A. Dodgers 4, 10 innings; and San Francisco 3, San Diego 2, 12 innings. □

Belly putter not foolproof, but becoming a trend

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LEMONT, Illinois (AP) —

Even more surprising than Phil Mickelson using a belly putter at the second stage of the FedEx Cup playoffs was a direct message that showed up during the weekend on Twitter.

"I have a belly putter!"

It came from Brad Faxon, who, when contacted Tuesday in South Korea for confirmation, had just been told by security that he and Jeff Sluman were not allowed to play cribbage in the hotel lobby because it was too close to the casino. "Can you believe that?" Faxon said.

The ban on cribbage? Sure. A belly putter for the guy reputed to be among the best in golf with the short stick? Hard to believe.

"I'm dead serious," Faxon said.

Only a week earlier, he said the belly putter for most people was a "second, third, fourth or last resort" when all else had failed, and that some USGA officials, no doubt, were turning in their graves for not ruling against the concept of anchoring a

putter to the body. Faxon then called Paul Vizanko at the Scotty Cameron Putting Studio in California and ordered one.

Before anyone starts looking for dogs and cats to fall from the sky, Faxon said he won't be using the belly putter on the Champions Tour this week in South Korea or anywhere else in competition. He was simply curious.

"I wanted to see what all the hype was about," Faxon said.

The belly putter first gained attention when Paul Azinger used one in a seven-shot victory 11 years ago at the Sony Open in Hawaii. The hype to which Faxon refers began last month, when players won three straight PGA Tour events with long putters.

Adam Scott, who in February switched to a long putter that he anchors to his chest, won the World Golf Championship at Firestone. A week later at the PGA Championship, Keegan Bradley (belly) became the first player to win a major using a longer putter. Webb Simpson (belly) won the following



This June 3, 2010 file photo shows Brad Faxon playing in the Memorial golf tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club, in Dublin, Ohio. Even more surprising than Phil Mickelson using a belly putter was a tweet last weekend from Faxon, one of the best putters in golf: "I have a belly putter!"

Associated Press

week in Greensboro, North Carolina, and then won again at the TPC Boston. Maybe it's more than a fad.

"It's like the two-handed backhand in tennis," Faxon said. "Twenty years ago, it was not the norm. Now it's

the better way to go. The belly putter and the long putter are going to trend that way. Young kids are not going to be afraid to switch."

There have been ample anecdotes about an entire threesome using a long putter. Ian Poulter tweeted that of 10 guys on the practice green in Boston, eight had long putters.

More telling are raw numbers. There were six players using longer putters in 2009 and 2010 at The Barclays, the opening playoff event for the top 125 players. This year, the number of long putters jumped to 20.

One of them was Jim Furyk, who is having one of his worst years. Since getting a few pointers from Bradley — three weeks before Bradley won the PGA — he has put himself in position to advance to the Tour Championship.

"Ten years ago, no one ever went to the belly putter unless they couldn't putt," Furyk said. "So I didn't really think of it as unfair. I thought of it as desperation, if that makes sense.

For me, it was still desperation, but I've seen some guys that have gone to it where they are decent putters, but they think it's a better way."

The debate is whether such putters should be banned because, some would argue, anchoring them to the belly or the chest eliminates the skill. The USGA has shown little interest in ruling against them, and some believe it's too late now.

Azinger thinks the argument is hollow.

"Everyone wants to act like it's foolproof," he said. "It's been around for 11 years. Now somebody does something and it blows up. You've still got to make putts under pressure to win. Ernie Els has jacked so many short putts with a belly putter, and I didn't hear anyone complaining about them."

Azinger still doesn't know what made him try it at his home club in Florida toward the end of 1999. □

9 of NASCAR's 10 title races available online

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Nine of NASCAR's 10 championship races will be available online for the first time in history.

ESPN and Turner Sports planned to announce Wednesday that NASCAR.com's RaceBuddy feature will be available during the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship. NASCAR programming will also appear for the first time on ESPN's WatchESPN.com platform and WatchESPN application. "Enhancing the viewing experience and improving the sport's digital and social presence for our millions of fans, at the track, at home and everywhere in between, is a goal we never lose sight of," said Marc Jenkins, NASCAR's vice president of digital media.

"Being able to offer this series of interactive products during the Chase will further engage our fans with a robust digital presence that will forever change how the championship points battle is consumed."

The agreement is a huge breakthrough for NASCAR, which has been unable to establish an online viewing

presence because of its multiple broadcasting contracts. The only time race coverage is available online is during the six races TNT broadcasts during the summer. Fox and ESPN split the rest of the schedule.

The 10-race Chase begins this Sunday at Chicago. The Oct. 15 event at Charlotte is the only race that won't be available online because it is airing on ABC, which doesn't allow events to be shown live online to protect its affiliate stations.

Under the new deal, NASCAR.com's RaceBuddy will feature two mosaics with a mix of eight in-car and stationary cameras positioned around the track. Audio from team radios will be available with the coordinating in-car cameras.

"Turner Sports is delighted to partner with NASCAR and ESPN to expand the award-winning RaceBuddy on NASCAR.COM to the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup," Matthew Hong, senior vice president and general manager, sports operations, Turner Sports, said in a statement.

Turner manages NASCAR.com

"Feedback from fans has been that

they wish RaceBuddy were available for additional races outside the TNT portion of the season," Hong said. "We're proud to be able to bring them ChaseBuddy and extend the interactive and immersive experience of RaceBuddy to nine playoff races." ESPN's live broadcast will now be available for fans to watch on their computer, smartphone or tablet through ESPN's WatchESPN app and WatchESPN.com. "Our mission is to serve sports fans anytime, anywhere, and with WatchESPN and our new partnership with NASCAR and Turner, we can now extend that mission by making our NASCAR programming available to race fans wherever they might be," Julie Sobieski, ESPN vice president, programming and acquisitions, said in a statement.

"I can't think of a more perfect time to launch this than the beginning of the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup." ESPN's daily NASCAR show "NASCAR Now" will also be available for the first time through WatchESPN.com and the WatchESPN app, as will telecasts of the Nationwide Series races on ESPN and ESPN2. □

Usain Bolt still has something to prove in the 100 meters

RAF CASERT

AP Sports Writer

BRUSSELS (AP) — Usain Bolt still has plenty to run for when he settles into the blocks for the 100 meters Friday at the Van Damme Memorial.

The Jamaican sprinter, who was disqualified from the 100 at the world championships for a false start, has only the sixth-best time of the year at 9.85 seconds. But in his last race of the season, Bolt will be looking to beat the season's top time of 9.78 seconds run by teammate Asafa Powell.

Despite a horrid start in Zagreb on Tuesday in his first race since the worlds, Bolt clocked 9.85, only .07 seconds shy of Powell's mark. And the world-record holder will find one of his favorite tracks in the world at the King Baudouin Stadium, where he ran blistering 9.77 seconds into a headwind three years ago.

"It should be good," Bolt said hours after arriving from Zagreb. "Definitely. I think I can do it. I've run very fast on this track."



Jamaica's Usain Bolt gestures before he addresses the media, ahead of Friday's Diamond League track and field event, in Brussels, Wednesday Sept. 14, 2011.

Weather predictions call for ideal conditions Friday. No one doubts Bolt's speed once he hits full stride — it is his release from the blocks that has been the problem this season.

In a stunning few seconds at the world championships late last month, Bolt jumped the gun in the 100-meter final before Ja-

maican teammate Yohan Blake won gold instead. It was a huge surprise that Bolt blamed on a bout of anxiety at the worst moment.

He has not false started since but looked hesitant

and slow out of the block in all his races since.

"It is hard to put it out because it is really fresh, but I have to deal with it," Bolt said. Tough enough, as he found out in Zagreb. He reacted slow to the gun

again and trailed veteran Kim Collins until past half-way before his giant stride made the difference.

"I looked really bad. I was at the back of the pack," he said. "I lost focus for a few seconds."

Brussels gives him one more chance to correct that before he heads into a monthlong holiday with the London Olympics already firmly on his mind.

"I am going to get better next season," Bolt said of his start. "It is going to be fine."

Pushing him in Brussels will be Jamaican teammate Nesta Carter and American rival Justin Gatlin.

Because of his size of 1.93 meters, Bolt will never be the fastest starter, but he realizes there is room for improvement.

"Definitely over the 100 meters: the first 30, 40 is always ... get stronger, run straight, not look around," he said. □

Associated Press

Serena tweets 'emotions' got the best of her



Serena Williams talks to the chair umpire Eva Asderaki during the women's championship match against Samantha Stosur of Australia at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Serena Williams says her emotions got the best of her when she berated the chair umpire during her loss to Sam Stosur in the U.S. Open final.

Williams tweeted her explanation Wednesday for verbally abusing chair umpire Eva Asderaki, saying "my emotions did get the best of me this past weekend." Facing a break point while serving in the first game of the second set Sunday night, Williams hit a forehand that she celebrated with a yell of "Come on!" Asderaki applied the hindrance rule, noting the scream came while Stosur was reaching for a backhand. Asderaki awarded the point to Stosur.

That set Williams off on a series of insults directed at the official, reminiscent of her tirade on the same court two years ago.

The code violation drew a \$2,000 fine Monday. □

NBA

Continued from Page 17

And the question is, what do they do?" Hunter said. "I mean, do they hold off making the decision, or do they wait in hopes that we get a deal in place sometime in the immediate future?"

Hopes of that diminished after Tuesday's meeting between the union's executive committee and the owners' labor relations committee ended with the sides still divided over the salary cap system, despite a hint of economic compromise.

And with Hunter and union president Derek Fisher of the Lakers warning that the season might not open on time, where do players go from here?

Overseas?

A court room, to sue the league after dissolving their union?

Back to NBA arenas, playing under a deal they hate?

Hunter makes the latter two options seem unlikely for now, reiterating Tuesday that players are unified in their refusal to accept the owners' current proposal.



This June 23, 2011 file photo shows National Basketball Players Association union president Derek Fisher, of the Los Angeles Lakers, speaking during a news conference, with NBA players standing behind him, in New York. Union executive director Billy Hunter is at right foreground.

Associated Press

But players might be considering overseas alternatives now more than ever.

"As time passes, guys are going to definitely defect, and you won't be able to find the same combination of skill and talent and character that the 450 of us NBA players possess,"

NBPA vice president Maurice Evans of the Wizards said. "You're not just going to go out and find that at random to replace this product; that should definitely be noted."

To date, Nets All-Star point guard Deron Williams' deal with Turkish team Besiktas is still the only one signed

by a top NBA player since the lockout began July 1. Commissioner David Stern has downplayed the overseas option, believing there isn't the money or comforts to entice his superstars. But lower-level players might choose any contract over no guaranteed payment back home anytime soon.

More than 40 players are in Las Vegas this week taking part in a league at the Impact Basketball academy, so union leaders decided to go there to speak with them. Meanwhile, owners will be meeting in Dallas. □

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EBay targets mobile users, hoping to seem hip

RACHEL METZ

AP Technology Writer

SAN JOSE, California (AP)

— eBay's name is synonymous with auctions, but that's created an image problem for the online marketplace.

These days, most of the things people purchase on the site aren't sold through auctions; they have fixed prices.

And, the majority of items for sale are new —not musty antiques or old collectibles.

Richelle Parham, eBay Inc.'s chief marketing officer, says plenty of people see eBay as an auction-focused marketplace, despite the reality.

"We need to change that perception," she says.

The company wants to be seen as an e-commerce innovator, rather than a staid auction site. To promote that image, eBay is embarking on a major ad campaign aimed at consumers who shop on smartphones. At the same time, eBay hopes it will change consumers' misperceptions about the company.

The campaign, eBay's first big marketing effort in several years, comes in the midst of a multi-year effort to improve the buying and selling experience on eBay.com. It's the 16-year-old company's first campaign to focus on mobile shopping — a still-small, but rapidly growing revenue source. The company was one of the first to offer an iPhone app through Apple Inc.'s App Store when it opened in mid-2008, and in the last three years, eBay's various smartphone and tablet apps have been downloaded more than 50 million times.

People aren't just using the

apps to browse. They're buying. In 2010, the value of goods purchased from the site using mobile devices totaled \$2 billion. This year, eBay predicted that figure would double, and mobile vice president Steve Yankovich says the company will unquestionably top its \$4 billion goal. Mobile apps are bringing in new users, too. Between January and July, nearly 500,000 new eBay shoppers joined up and made their first purchase via mobile.

"We're seeing more people on their mobile devices," says Parham. "More people are shopping anywhere."

Given this, eBay is emphasizing the idea that people can shop on its site at any time, anywhere, for anything. The TV commercials and other ads eBay will start rolling out on Wednesday are geared toward three types of mobile-happy shoppers it identified through market research: the fashionista, the elec-



This frame grab provided by eBay Inc., shows a still frame from a commercial that will be part of the new Ad campaign that eBay is launching Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011, that is focused on shopping via smartphone.

Associated Press

tronics junkie and the auto parts and accessory fan, all of whom are in different situations when shopping inspiration strikes.

Parham says these three kinds of consumers were chosen as the focus, in part, because they tend to own smartphones (eBay

believes 60 percent of the people that it considers "fashion enthusiasts" and 65 percent of "electronics enthusiasts" are so equipped, for example).

In one commercial, for example, a man named Pete attends a meeting where co-workers mock him for

being the only person in the board room without a tablet computer. One colleague, to show how out-of-date Pete is, cries out, "Me Pete, me use pen!" Another arrives late saying, "Sorry I'm late — I was in the 16th century looking for Pete's pen."□

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Cautious consumers pull back on retail spending

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S.

consumers grew more cautious last month amid wild stock market swings, zero job growth and heightened concerns that the economy has weakened. Retail sales were flat in August. At the same time, wholesale inflation leveled off. The latest data could give the Federal Reserve more impetus to adopt additional stimulus next week. "The combination of those two reports sets the stage for, and warrants, additional action by the Fed," said Michelle Meyer, an economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Wall Street looked past the weak retail sales data. Growing optimism that European leaders would be able to contain their debt crisis drove stocks higher. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 140

Report: Yahoo, AOL Microsoft plan ad sale deal

NEW YORK (AP) — Yahoo, AOL and Microsoft are joining up to sell each other's advertising inventory, according to published reports. Citing unnamed sources, the tech blog AllThingsD reported earlier Wednesday that executives from Yahoo Inc., AOL Inc. and Microsoft Corp. told Web publishers and ad buyers about the plan at a presentation on Tuesday. The deal could help the companies slow the fast growth of Google and Facebook in the lucrative online display advertising market. Under the plan, the companies will sell each other's "Class 2 display" ad inventory, that is, ads they can't sell themselves and would normally hand over to ad networks, the report said. By selling the ads on their own, the three companies will be able to get back some of the money that has ended up in the hands of the advertising networks. □



In this Aug. 30, 2011 photo, Ford Explorers are displayed at a car dealership in San Jose, Calif. Consumers spent less on autos, clothing and furniture, leaving retail sales unchanged in August.

Associated Press

points for the day.

In August, consumers spent less on autos, clothing and furniture, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

Hurricane Irene disrupted sales along the East Coast, analysts said. But many consumers were also spooked after a grim month that renewed recession fears.

The government reported that the economy barely grew in the first half of the year. Lawmakers fought over raising the debt ceiling.

Standard & Poor's downgraded long-term U.S. debt for the first time in history. Stocks tumbled — the Dow lost nearly 16 percent of its value from July 21 through Aug. 10.

As a result, consumer confidence fell in August to its lowest level since April 2009, when the economy was still in recession. And employers added no net jobs during the month.

The government retail sales report is the first major read on consumer spending for

August. Consumer spending is important because it accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

The economy's weakness is helping to keep prices in check.

The Labor Department said its Producer Price Index, which measures price changes before they reach the consumer, was unchanged in August after a 0.2 percent rise in July. A drop in energy prices in August offset higher food costs. The price of

oil, cotton and other commodities have come down in recent months, after pushing up most measures of inflation earlier this year. Slow inflation gives the Fed more room to take steps to boost the economy.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke acknowledged last week that inflation rose sharply in the spring.

But he repeated his belief that the increase was temporary and that price pressures would moderate soon.

Fed policymakers meet for two days next week. Many economists expect they will decide to shift money out of short-term mortgage-backed securities and into longer-term Treasury bonds.

The move could push down longer-term interest rates, including rates on mortgages, auto loans and other consumer and business borrowing.

The central bank could take other steps, such as cutting the interest rate it pays on the reserves banks hold at the Fed. That could encourage banks to lend the money rather than keeping it parked at the Fed. □

Canada balks at Buy American provisions

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) —

Canada plans to fight the Buy American provisions in the new U.S. jobs package proposed by President Barack Obama and is surprised and frustrated that the issue has come up again, Canada's trade minister said Wednesday.

Obama's proposed \$447 billion package includes a requirement that all "iron, steel, and manufactured goods" used in public buildings or works be supplied by American firms. The bill would allocate more than \$100 billion toward the renovation of schools, the construction of roads and bridges and improving transit.

Trade Minister Ed Fast said the provisions are not ac-

ceptable to Canada and said history shows protectionist measures stall growth and kill jobs.

"It is disappointing that it is coming from the Obama administration given the fact that we have been there before," Fast said in a telephone interview.

Canada ultimately won an exemption from the "Buy American" provisions that were included in 2009's \$787 billion economic stimulus bill, which favored U.S.-made steel and other manufactured goods in government-funded building projects. The provision was a major irritant in trade relations between the United States and Canada, its largest trading partner.

The Canadian government offered U.S. companies expanded access to Cana-

dian government procurement contracts in return for the waiver of the "Buy American" provisions. But the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters group said Canadian companies lost out on billions of dollars in work on U.S. infrastructure projects before the waiver was granted. Suppliers of everything from steel and sewers to metals, pipe and construction materials were affected. Fast said there is now a fast-track consultation process in place with the U.S. to deal with issues like this because of the 2010 agreement. Fast declined to say whether Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper would call Obama about it, but said Harper is very involved. Canada sends more than 70 percent of its exports across its

southern border.

Nkenge Harmon, a spokeswoman for the Office of the United States Trade Representative, said in an email that "The American Jobs Act is fully consistent with the United States' international obligations on government procurement."

Jayson Myers, head of the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters group, said he is extremely disappointed and concerned that Buy American restrictions are reappearing, but pleased the Canadian government is responding quickly.

The new measures come at a time when Canada and the U.S. are close to signing an expanded arrangement to allow more secure flow of goods across the border along with stepped up security. □

News executives say mobile delivery future of news

By KRISTEN WYATT

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — News executives opening the Associated Press Managing Editors meeting in Denver on Wednesday said mobile news delivery offers newspapers and other media companies a good opportunity to make money in the digital world.

Tom Curley, The Associated Press' president and CEO, said media companies lost revenue opportunities with the Internet but have a chance to change that with mobile.

"We've got to be smarter, this time, in the do-over. There won't be a third time," Curley said.

William Dean Singleton, publisher of The Denver Post and The Salt Lake Tribune and chairman of The Associated Press, said print media is still the most profitable segment of the industry and will continue to survive.

"Newspapers aren't dead. They're not anywhere near dead. They're not going to die. They're going to



AP President and CEO Tom Curley speaks during a panel discussion on "The Future of News" during the opening session of the annual APME meeting in Denver on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011.

Associated Press

change a lot," Singleton said.

But he advocated for rapid adaptation to new technologies.

"We must find an economic business model to operate within the new economic rules, and it's been painful," said Singleton, who compared the chal-

lenge facing the news business to walking across a canyon on a tightrope.

In another sign of the times, the APME board voted earlier Wednesday to change the association's name to the Associated Press Media Editors to better reflect the organization's varied membership, which includes broadcasters as well as college students and professors.

Curley said the AP will announce in the coming weeks partnerships with dozens of newspapers to bring mobile advertising content to mobile devices. He assured the news executives that the mobile news delivery will be profitable.

Kate Marymont, Gannett Co. vice president for news, said newspapers should sharpen their focus on what they do best, and outsource cheaply produced "commodity information" such as sports scores and weather.

"Our firepower needs to go to watchdog journalism, the great storytelling," she said.

SEC says it likely tossed some info on big banks

By MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Securities and Exchange Commission has acknowledged that some documents from preliminary investigations of major banks and convicted swindler Bernard Madoff likely were destroyed under a former agency policy.

The SEC's enforcement chief made the disclosure in a letter Wednesday to Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa. Grassley had asked about allegations by an SEC attorney that the agency illegally destroyed records related to thousands of preliminary probes, including investigations of Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, Wells Fargo and Madoff.

Enforcement Director Robert Khuzami said the agency doesn't believe any current or future investigations were harmed by the policy, which allowed documents to be discarded in cases that were closed when staffers decided a formal probe wasn't warranted. A review by the SEC inspector general is under way to determine if any law was violated.

Khuzami said in the letter that the SEC has kept "significant information" related to all the "matters under inquiry," even under the former records policy.

"We believe the electronic ... information that we retain allows staff to 'connect the dots' between current and closed matters," Khuzami wrote to Grassley. The electronic information is searchable and allows SEC enforcement staff to identify potential relationships between individuals or entities, and between current and past inquiries, he said.

The information in documents that were discarded still may be available from sources inside or outside the SEC, Khuzami said. The agency's current policy, adopted last year, requires all documents to be retained whether they are part of a preliminary probe that is closed or a formal investigation, Khuzami said.

Stocks jump on hopes for progress on Greece's debt

MATTHEW CRAFT

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A promise by European leaders to help Greece avoid default sent U.S. stocks sharply higher Wednesday for the third straight day.

The leaders of Greece, France and Germany agreed in a teleconference that Greece was an "integral" part of the 17-country bloc that uses the euro. Greece also said it would stick to agreements to trim its debts, a condition for getting more financial help. The statements were intended to calm fears that Greece was headed for default or might be forced to drop the euro.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 140.88 points, or 1.3 percent, to close at 11,246.73. The Dow sank as

many as 112 points within the first hour of trading, then rose steadily through the rest of the day.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 15.81 points, or 1.3 percent, to 1,188.68. The Nasdaq composite rose 40.40, or 1.6 percent, to 2,572.55.

European stock indexes rose sharply in the hours leading up to the meeting as investors hoped the talks would be productive. Germany's DAX gained 3.4 percent and France's CAC-40 1.9 percent.

The threat of a Greek default and the damage it could wreak on financial markets has had investors on edge in the past two weeks, lifting Treasuries and weighing on stocks. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note hit a record low

on Monday of 1.87 percent and the S&P 500 has only risen three days this month.

Among U.S. stocks in focus, ConAgra Foods Inc. said it would withdraw its \$5.17 billion bid for Ralcorp Holdings Inc. if the company doesn't consider its bid by Monday evening. Ralcorp has already rejected several bids from ConAgra since March. Ralcorp's stock dropped 7 percent to \$79.11. ConAgra fell 2 percent to \$23.45.

Computer maker Dell Inc. rose 3 percent to \$14.86. Dell said Tuesday it will add \$5 billion to its existing \$2.1 billion stock-buyback plan. Dell bought \$1.1 billion of its stock in the second quarter. Staples Inc. rose 3 percent to \$14.60 after the company said it will buy up to \$1.5 billion of its own stock. The office-supply company's



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, Sept. 12, 2011, in New York.

Associated Press

stock has dropped 36 percent this year.


The gains came despite a report that retail sales were flat in August. People spent less on autos, clothing and furniture as fears mounted that the country was slipping into a recession and as the stock market took a steep fall. Economists had expected a slight gain.

That report helped push oil prices down \$1.30 to \$88.91 a barrel. Weak retail spending suggests Americans will consume less fuel.

All three stock indexes are still down for the month. The Dow has lost 3.2 percent and the S&P 500 index 2.5 percent. The Nasdaq has fared better, losing just 0.3 percent. □

Mutts

Mooch's Dear Diary



9.15

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Blondie

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OR FOR FINALLY REPAIRING THE LEAK IN THE ROOF BEFORE IT RAINS AGAIN.

NO, I'M PRETTY SURE IT SAYS PLAYING GOLF.


THEN YOU NEED TO LOOK AGAIN, DEAR.

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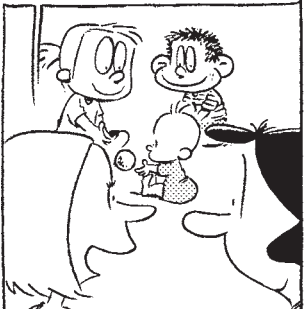
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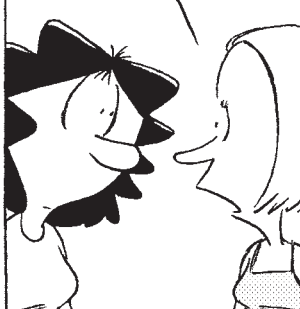
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Zits

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I MEANT TO TEXT "SEW MY BUTTON ON!"

OH.

NOW I'M GOING TO FEEL WEIRD ALL DAY.

THAT'S JUST THE BUTT HAIR TALKING.

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Conceptis Sudoku

			5					
7			6	3	9			2
		8				7		
	1						6	9
	5						2	
2	3						8	
		6				3		
9			8	2	4			5
					7			

Difficulty Level ★★★

9/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	3	9	7	4	2	1	8	5
4	1	5	8	6	9	2	7	3
2	7	8	5	1	3	9	6	4
7	8	3	6	9	4	5	1	2
1	5	4	3	2	7	8	9	6
9	2	6	1	8	5	3	4	7
3	4	1	9	5	6	7	2	8
8	6	7	2	3	1	4	5	9
5	9	2	4	7	8	6	3	1

ACROSS

- 1 One of the Three Bears
5 Is a tattletale
10 Bowlers and sombreros
14 False deity
15 Allowed by law
16 Shade of beige
17 "Groovy!" to today's kids
18 Extreme
19 Surrounded by
20 Arm of the sea
22 Crowns
24 Tease
25 Helsinki natives
26 Money hoarder
29 -hee; giggle
30 Gets close to
34 Burden
35 Lend a hand to
36 Clothing ensemble
37 World ___ II
38 Verboten
40 Wedding words
41 Motor
43 Traitor
44 Songbird
45 ___ appropriate; considers fitting
46 Touch lightly
47 Here, ___ and everywhere
48 Part of a daisy
50 Caribbean ___
51 Museum director
54 Matrimony
58 Smallest bills
59 City in Utah
61 Lendl of tennis
62 Also says
63 Colorful ducks
64 Fiddling Roman emperor
65 Ore deposit
66 Fix one's hair
67 Got bigger

DOWN

- 1 Small rodents
2 Hubbubs
3 Debatable
4 Entices
5 Promo on a book jacket
6 Easter flower
7 Perform
8 One stroke under par
9 Laundry problem
10 iPhone accessory
11 Pinnacle
12 In good physical shape
13 Lather
21 Broadcast
23 Declare invalid
25 ___ Bureau of Investigation; FBI
26 Did a lawn job
27 Ridiculous
28 Sudden increase
29 Up to the time that, for short
31 Blazing
32 Equestrian
33 Gem
35 Beer's cousin
36 Word with bran or meal

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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51	52	53					54				55	56	57	
58						59	60				61			
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/15/11

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

MINT	OTTER	CRAB												
IDEA	FARGO	HOME												
FLED	FLOOD	GATES												
FED	MILD	OPENS												
	LOUSY	TAE												
SLEUTH	DALLAS													
LISZT	SKIPS	DID												
ALSO	SPINE	MALE												
PAL	SHONE	CAPON												
	CYGNET	CURTIS												
	HAD	AORTA												
ERROR	BLAB	TAB												
CEASE	FIRES	PINE												
HART	AVERT	IONS												
ORES	NEWS	GNAT												

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9/15/11

- 38 Small picture in a larger picture
39 Space
42 Deadlock
44 Captain Ahab's profession
46 Goal
47 TV's Danson
49 Taps the horn
50 In a ___; sort of
51 Fuel, for some
52 Take apart
53 Actor ___ Foxx
54 Healthy
55 Above
56 Give a hoot
57 Recognize
60 Doris or Dennis

Today In History

The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Sep-
tember 15, the 258th day
of 2011. There are 107 days
left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1590 - Giovanni Battista signs treaty with French Huguenots to bring army of 156,000 German and Swiss mercenaries into France.

1776 - British forces occupy New York City during the American Revolution.

1777 - Polish Count Casimir Pulaski is commissioned major general in American Revolutionary Army.

1810 - Mexico rejects Spanish rule.

1821 - Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador declare independence.

1882 - British forces occupy Cairo; Arab Pasha surrenders and is banished to Ceylon — now Sri Lanka.

1916 - Tanks are used for the first time in war, in a British attack on German lines near the Somme in France.

1917 - Russia is proclaimed a republic by Alexander Kerensky, the head of a provisional government.

1918 - Serb and French forces break through Bulgarian lines on the Salonika front during World War I. Bulgaria soon sues for peace.

1935 - The Nuremberg laws are passed, making discrimination against Jews part of Germany's national policy and making the swastika the official symbol of Nazi Germany.

1938 - British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain visits Germany's Adolf Hitler at Berchtesgaden where Hitler states his determination to annex the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia.

1940 - The Royal Air Force inflicts heavy losses on the Luftwaffe as the tide turns in the Battle of Britain during World War II.

1942 - German armies attack Russian city of Stalin-grad in World War II.

1946 - People's Republic is formed in Bulgaria after referendum rejects monarchy.

1950 - U.N. forces under U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur land at Inchon, South Ko-



Today is Oliver Stone's birthday

rea, halting North Korean advance.

1953 - The U.N. General Assembly rejects Communist demands that China be admitted into the organization in order to help plan a Korean peace conference.

1959 - Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev is welcomed by U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower as he arrives for an unprecedented two-week visit to the U.S.

1963 - Four children are killed when a bomb goes off during Sunday services at a black Baptist church in Birmingham, Alabama.

1971 - Laotian forces recapture the strategic Boloven Plateau town of Pak-song following a fierce battle with North Vietnamese troops that claims 481 lives.

1976 - The South African government begins removing 45,000 Bakalobeng tribesmen from a Transvaal area into the Bophutatswana homeland as part of its policy to assign black tribes to autonomous areas.

1982 - Iran's former foreign minister, Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, is executed after being convicted of plotting against the government.

1988 - Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir says Hungary has agreed to renew ties with Israel after 21-year break.

1992 - Palestinian negotiators demand a commitment that Israel will withdraw from East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza as part of a Middle East settlement.

1993 - Hijackers, brandishing grenades, force a Russian jetliner with 52 people

aboard to land in Norway, then surrender to police and ask for political asylum.

1995 - Tanks, howitzers and other heavy weaponry roll away from Sarajevo as Bosnian Serbs begin complying with a U.S.-brokered agreement to ease the shattered city's siege.

1997 - An Egyptian military court convicts 72 Islamic militants of subversion and sentences four of them to death.

1998 - Rival Bodo and Santhal tribes clash with guns, machetes and traditional bows and arrows in India's remote northeast, killing at least 30 people.

1999 - Countries from France to Thailand promise to send soldiers to rescue starving refugees from slaughter in East Timor, as the U.N. Security Council authorizes an international peacekeeping force for the beleaguered province.

2000 - Mexicans are free to publicly toast their independence from Spain for the first time in 70 years. The sale of alcoholic beverages during patriotic Mexican events had been banned since President Pascual Ortiz Rubio was wounded in an assassination attempt in 1930.

2001 - Tropical Storm Gabrielle heads out to sea after leaving half a million Florida homes without electricity.

2003 - A fire at Saudi Arabia's largest prison, al-Hair, in Riyadh, kills 67 inmates and wounds 23 others.

Today's Birthdays:

James Fenimore Cooper, U.S. writer (1789-1851); Robert Benchley, U.S. drama critic (1849-1945); Agatha Christie, British writer (1890-1976); Jean Renoir, French film director (1894-1979); Jessye Norman, U.S. soprano (1945--); Tommy Lee Jones, U.S. actor (1946--); Oliver Stone, U.S. film director (1946--); Britain's Prince Harry (1984--).

Thought for Today:

In every real man a child is hidden that wants to play — Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher (1844-1900). □

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Foundation Amor pa Prohimo
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Women in Difficulties Foundation
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Medical waste risks ignored says U.N. special investigator

In this May 22, 2008 file photo, used syringes and needles are piled on the ground under an underpass on the west side of San Antonio where drug addicts shoot up.

Associated Press

JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — A human rights investigator for the United Nations says up to a quarter of the world's trash from hospitals, clinics, labs, blood banks and mortuaries is hazardous and much more needs to be done to regulate it.

Calin Georgescu, a U.N. special rapporteur, says few nations are developing the rules needed to cope with the growing mountains of medical waste that pose a hidden risk of infection and could expose people to low levels of radioactivity and needle-stick injuries. In a report to the U.N. Hu-

man Rights Council, he said nations pay "too little attention" to their tons of waste each year — waste that contains pathogens, blood, low levels of radioactivity, discarded needles, syringes, scalpels, expired drugs and vaccines. In many poorer nations, discarded chemicals and pharmaceutical wastes go straight to city dumps, down hospital toilets into water systems, or are burned in cement kilns that just add to dioxide emissions.

Norwegian diplomat Hans Ola Urstad told the council many developing nations face "an unsustainable inflow" of medical trash and "a considerable increase in the export of hazardous waste" from wealthy countries.

In August, Amnesty International said thousands of

people in Ivory Coast still await compensation for illness caused by toxic waste illegally exported from Amsterdam in a tanker chartered by Trafigura Beheer BV in 2006.

Rich nations typically generate up to 13 pounds per person a year of hazardous medical wastes, according to the World Health Organization, while lower-income countries produce up to 6.6 pounds.

WHO says millions of cases of hepatitis and tens of thousands of HIV infections could be prevented each year if syringe needles were disposed of safely instead of getting reused without sterilization. It says radioactive medical waste killed four people in Brazil in 1988, and similar accidents occurred before then in Algeria, Mexico and Morocco. Georgescu noted that "at times, medical waste is illegally shipped to other countries" but more often it is dumped illegally or combined with household discards. He noted an incident in 2009 when Brazil returned 89 containers to Britain that were shipped as recyclable plastic, but held used syringes, condoms and old medicine.

Georgescu recommended all nations adopt better laws for managing medical waste and replace incinerators with "more environmentally friendly and safe methods of disposal" such as autoclaving, which uses pressurized steam and superheated water to disinfect waste and medical equipment.

He urged wealthy nations to provide aid to developing countries to better manage these wastes. □

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Husband of TV star says wife abducted

FRONT ROYAL, Virginia (AP)

— The husband of “Real Housewives of D.C.” cast member Michaela Salahi reported to police that he believed his wife had been abducted, but investigators said Wednesday she assured them she was with a friend and “where she wanted to be.”

Sheriff Daniel T. McEathron said his office was working with the FBI to contact Michaela Salahi to confirm her well-being.

“We’re aware of the situation and we’re going to work with the Warren County Sheriff’s Office,” said Dee Rybiski, a spokeswoman for the agency.

The sheriff’s office in Virginia’s horse country said Tareq Salahi called Tuesday afternoon to report his wife missing. Gossip website TMZ reported that Tareq said he felt the sheriff’s office wasn’t taking his concerns seriously.

“This is not a publicity stunt ...” Tareq Salahi told WRC-TV in Washington. “I think she’s being forced to say ‘I’m OK.’ ... “I think she’s missing.” An Associated Press call to a number for Tareq prompted a recorded message that the line could not

accept additional calls.

In a statement, McEathron said Tareq Salahi was concerned because his wife was to return to northern Virginia on Wednesday and she had called the previous day from a phone with an Oregon area code.



Michaela Salahi

Deputy Mike Glavis spoke with Michaela Salahi and she “seemed calm, was engaged in conversation, and assured the deputy that she had left the residence with a good friend and was where she wanted to be,” the sheriff said in the statement. “Mrs. Salahi advised that she did not want Mr. Salahi to know where she was.”

The Salahis burst onto the scene in 2009 when they crashed a White House state dinner. □

8.4M people watch ABC’s Kennedy tapes special

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fifty years on, Camelot has little apparent fascination for young people.

The majority of the 8.4 million people who watched ABC’s two-hour special featuring a previously-unheard interview with former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy had personal memories of the Kennedy administration. The Nielsen ratings company said just under 2 million of those viewers were aged 18 to 49.

More people in that youthful demographic watched reruns of “NCIS: Los Angeles” on CBS at the same time Tuesday or saw contestants dropping into the water on ABC’s “Wipeout” earlier in the night. “Young people just don’t care about old people on TV,” said Bill Gorman, co-founder of the TV By The Numbers website, which analyzes television ratings.

“It’s just the way it works.” Still, add in the older viewers and it’s a much larger audience than ABC is accustomed to on a Tuesday night this summer.

The Kennedy special grew in ratings as the night went on and was more popular than the season premiere of NBC’s “Parenthood,” Nielsen said. ABC said it was happy with the ratings. □

How brash are they?

No colors are barred at NY Fashion Week

RUTH LA FERLA

© 2011 New York Times

NEW YORK — New Yorkers may not be paragons of patience. (Ask anyone who has ever had a taxi hijacked out from under him.) But what many lack in civility they make up in audacity. As Fashion Week draws to a close, some of that vauntedchutzpah was revealed on the runways in a parade of spring fashions that were among the most brazenly colorful and exuberant in years.

At Lincoln Center, in Chelsea and all around town, designers signaled their optimism in a joyfully gaudy palette of cobalt blue, caution yellow, violet and searing chartreuse. Some, like Peter Som, Jason Wu and Nicole Miller, offered cheery mash-ups of pink and teal, purple and scarlet and assorted tints of rain-forest green. Their collections teemed with cabbage roses, outsize peonies and, in the case of Rodarte, van Gogh-inspired sunflowers meant to put a smile on the dourest of Fashion Week veterans. That crazy salad of colors and prints served to mark an identity that was distinctly, and brashly, American. So, too, did a surfeit of athletic looks shown by designers as disparate in spirit as Alexander Wang, who signaled his NASCAR inspiration with laser-cut mesh bombers and leather minis; Joseph Altuzarra, who sent out a procession of techno fabric parkas, shiny windbreakers and a motocross jacket or two; and David Neville and Marcus Wainwright of Rag & Bone, whose show derived much of its sizzle from a series of stadium-worthy ponchos. But some veered from a path of unalloyed Americana with an assortment of vagabond looks inspired by cultures and landscapes as far flung as Mexico and Finland, Haiti, Hawaii and North Africa. There were tribal vibrations (Donna Karan), Bollywood embroideries and vibrant paisleys (Thakoon). Some clothes were lavishly gilded (Bibhu Mohapatra and



A model presents a design by Altuzarra at the designer’s 2012 Spring/Summer presentation during Mercedes-Benz Fashion week in New York. As Fashion Week comes to a close, designers signaled their optimism in brazenly colorful and exuberant fashions.

(Valerio Mezzanotti/The New York Times)



A model presents a design by Prabal Gurung at the designer’s 2012 Spring/Summer presentation during Mercedes-Benz Fashion week in New York. As Fashion Week comes to a close, designers signaled their optimism in brazenly colorful and exuberant fashions.

(Hiroko Masuike/The New York Times)

Thakoon) for a worth-the-money look — not for the faint-hearted perhaps, but certainly catnip to the free-spenders global citizens at whom they apparently are aimed. Raucous shows al-

ternated with calmer ones, including those of some designers who turned their backs on hard-edged chic in favor of a style as pale and as fragile as Ophelia. □

'Two and a Half Men' back with new cast, equation

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

BURBANK, California (AP) —

The stars of "Two and a Half Men" are scrutinizing a publicity photo depicting them as a tuxedo-clad trio sharing a vintage microphone. Ashton Kutcher is in the center of the shot, flanked by Jon Cryer and Angus T. Jones on the other. Charlie Sheen is out of the picture.

"It's nice," offered Cryer, adding a query to Jones: "But that's not your hand, is it? I believe they had too big a black spot there and they photoshopped in a hand."

"That's not my head, is it?" said Kutcher.

Oh, those kidders. But the silliness carries a message: The three actors are a comfortable fit with each other and for the revamped "Two and a Half Men," which returns Sept. 19 for its ninth season, minus the fired Sheen.

Executive producer Chuck Lorre and the Warner Bros. studio clashed bitterly with their erratic, hard-partying star before dumping him last March and cutting the season short. The task now is to salvage what has reigned as TV's top-rated comedy.

Kutcher, who carries the weight of replacing Sheen

as newly introduced character Walden Schmidt, diligently ticks off reasons the sitcom can remain a hit.

"The series has momentum. It has fans that are built in," he said. "I think the great thing the writers have done is they haven't lost the sensibility of the show. ... It's going to offend people just as much as every episode has offended people."

"Two and a Half Men" accomplished that by trafficking in sexual jokes and innuendo as it detailed the antics of fast-living womanizing cad Charlie Harper (Sheen). More fodder came from his roommates, Charlie's neurotic, divorced brother Alan (Cryer) and young nephew Jake (Jones).

The shake-up has given the show the chance to push the envelope in a new direction: laughing in the face of death, with Sheen's character jettisoned in a fatal accident. Kutcher fills the vacuum playing an Internet genius who is wealthy but unlucky in love and who moves in with Alan and Jake, creating a new buddy triangle. Judy Greer plays the heartbroken Walter's ex.

Producers have been trying, sometimes unsuccessfully, to keep details of the

reconstituted show under wraps. Kutcher, who sports a beard in the role, plays it coy when asked about the facial hair.

"You got to ask the writers. We're not allowed to talk about the beard," he

Cryer learned about Charlie Harper's demise in an operation worthy of the CIA.

"There was tremendous security during the whole thing and, in fact, no scripts were sent out. You were

to leave the script in the room and walk out," he recounted.

Cryer and his co-stars, who have taken a break from production for a joint interview at the studio, say that it's all smooth sailing now.



Actors, from left, Jon Cryer, Ashton Kutcher and Angus T. Jones attend the 2011 CBS Upfront party in New York. The three actors are a comfortable fit with each other and for the revamped "Two and a Half Men," which returns Sept. 19 at 9 p.m. EDT for its ninth season, minus Charlie Sheen.

(AP Photo/Peter Kramer, file)

says, then relents. "I was being really lazy when I met Chuck and he said, 'I like the beard. Keep the beard.'"

brought to Warner (Warner Bros. Television), taken into a room with the scripts, left there for half-an-hour by yourself and then you had

"We've definitely found our dynamic," Kutcher said. Cryer agreed, lauding the show's writers and his new co-star. □

Jane Lynch rolls out red carpet as Emmy host

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Jane Lynch didn't trip over the red carpet while rolling it out Wednesday morning in anticipation of Sunday's Emmy ceremony. Despite not seeing "daylight in a couple of days" and dreaming she might experience a "face plant" as the show's host, Lynch pulled it off without a hitch.

"I don't even know where I am anymore," she joked to dozens of photographers and reporters who gathered for the unveiling with the show's executive producer Mark Burnett and TV academy chairman John Shaffner.

For the fourth year, the show will be held at the Nokia Theatre in downtown Los Angeles. The 390-foot

red carpet — more like a red sidewalk, really — will canvass the entire plaza across the street from the Staples Center.

After the show, Shaffner said the red carpet and the solar panels powering it will be donated to local charities. "People will get to live on red carpet," he boasted. Lynch teased that the 63rd annual Primetime Emmys would feature an appearance by such members of MTV's "Jersey Shore" gang as Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi, Paul "DJ Pauly D" Delvecchio and Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino.

She said the show will also star a chorus of singing TV actors who will introduce the award categories. They might melodically move the show along, too.

"If any of our winners go

long, they'll be gently singing them off," promised Lynch.

Inside the Nokia Theatre, the sweeping set was coming together. On one side of the stage, an enormous Emmy statue was showered in glittering charms. On the other side, a raised platform was surrounded by multiple screens. At the center was a voluminous circular screen doubling as an entryway.

"It's a very big stage at the Nokia," said Burnett. "It feels important. I like the colors — reds and golds, warm tones that make you feel invited and positive. Then, you drop in great musical moments and fun. That's the tone and pace. There's too much to fit in."

Does that mean the show will go over its three-hour



Actress Jane Lynch, left, executive producer Mark Burnett, center, and Academy of Television Arts and Sciences president John Shaffner rollout of the red carpet for the 63rd Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011. The Emmy Awards will take place Sunday, Sept. 18 in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles)

running time? "Hey, has it ever not?"

Place cards on the chairs in front of the stage's black-and-gold stairs illustrated that Hugh Laurie, Betty White and Chris Colfer will have the best seats in the

house: front-row center.

Other nominees with sweet front-row seat assignments included Jon Cryer, Steve Carell, Mariska Hargitay, Connie Britton, Kyle Chandler, Amy Poehler and Will Arnett. □

Going out with a Bunga



FRANK BRUNI

© 2011 New York Times

FLORENCE, Italy – September has been Italy's most uncertain month, with questions about whether the Parliament will pass an austerity package, if that package will be stringent enough and how Europe's fiscal stewards will react.

There's also this: What sort of celebration will the country's epically libidinous emperor – sorry, prime minister – orchestrate for his 75th birthday? Silvio Berlusconi's big milestone is about two weeks away, and you have to assume he'll pull out all the stops, but you also have to wonder what stops are left to be pulled. The man hasn't been shy about satiating himself. As we now know, thanks to his current trial on charges of paying for sex with a minor, he regularly assembles veritable harems of young women for bacchanals with a dress code that could be described as whimsical. He calls them "bunga bunga" parties, which has no particular translation and no need of one. The hormonal gist comes through.

The bunga allegations grabbing headlines last week were that Berlusconi, in moments of pulchritudinous piety, was treated to lap dances from women attired as nuns. This followed claims that he received ministrations from women outfitted as nurses. And it's said that Italy is a chauvinistic society! For Berlusconi, no profession is beyond a woman's pantomime.

We Americans have found great entertainment in all of this – lengthy Berlusconi exposés appeared recently in *The New Yorker* and *Vanity Fair* – because it's lurid, yes, but also because it's reassuring. Our own political madness pales beside his triple-X opera buffa. But we shouldn't just gape and laugh. His country's path from glorious to ridiculous, paved in part by his carnal and legal distractions, threatens the financial stability of Europe, and benefits no one.

Beyond that, Italy presents a cautionary tale for many immodestly privileged Western democracies that have been lulled by comfort into complacency; have let too much silliness create too much damage; and haven't held leaders to adequate account.

Ours is one of them. America is in some ways a petit guignol version of Italy. We also coast on the accomplishments of yesteryear. Also neglect our infrastructure. Also watch young people struggle. Also waste precious time while lawmakers behave in petty, self-serving fashions. Also let money corrupt politics.

Money is Berlusconi's lance, his armor, his steed, his everything. A billionaire many times over, he uses it to engender loyalty, and his business empire reaches deep into the image-burnishing and opinion-manipulating realms of television, journalism and publishing. At the end of a long interview years ago, he asked me if a recent book of mine had been distributed in Italy. It hadn't.

"Would you like it to be?" he said.

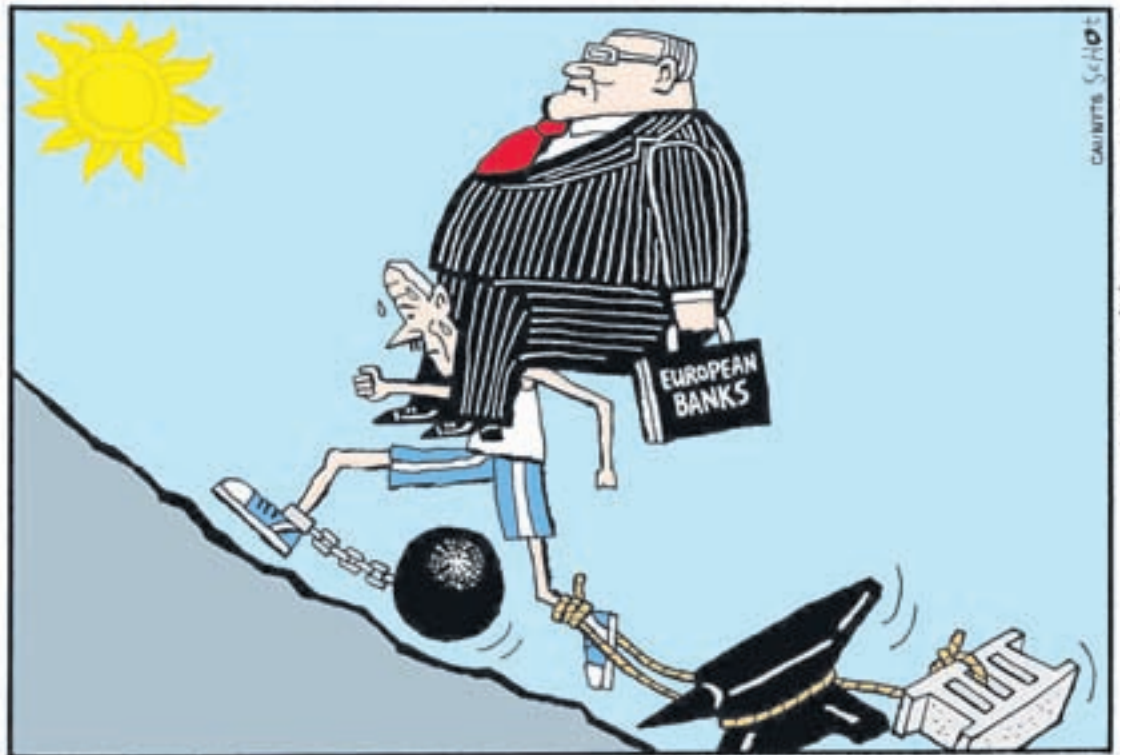
But Italians have had his number for a while, and have seen their country's economy stagnate and debt rise over the last decade. And Berlusconi, in power for much of the last 17 years, has made minimal progress on necessary tax, regulatory and entitlement reforms.

So how does he last? I asked many smart, concerned Italians that question, and was told that Italians have been too slow to take a hard enough look at his shenanigans, and allowed him to entrench himself.

The opposition, meantime, hasn't mustered the maturity to move past its fractiousness and make him go away.

"The fact remains that there's no alternative," Giuliano Pisapia, Milan's new mayor, told me. Milan is a Berlusconi stronghold, and yet Pisapia unseated a Berlusconi loyalist, proving the prime minister's vulnerability. But nationally, Pisapia doesn't see someone poised to supplant Berlusconi. In a country with such treasure and beauty, maybe hardship is dulled and the situation hasn't become quite bad enough.

I asked Mario Calabresi, a celebrated Italian journalist, why young Italians, whose unemployment rate is estimated to be about 27 percent, weren't protesting on the scale of the "indignados," or indignant, who crowd public squares in Spain. □



If it feels right ...



DAVID BROOKS

© 2011 New York Times

During the summer of 2008, the eminent Notre Dame sociologist Christian Smith led a research team that conducted in-depth interviews with 230 young adults from across America. The interviews were part of a larger study that Smith, Kari Christoffersen, Hilary Davidson, Patricia Snell Herzog and others have been conducting on the state of America's youth.

Smith and company asked about the young people's moral lives, and the results are depressing.

It's not so much that these young Americans are living lives of sin and debauchery, at least no more than you'd expect from 18- to 23-year-olds. What's disheartening is how bad they are at thinking and talking about moral issues.

The interviewers asked open-ended questions about right and wrong, moral dilemmas and the meaning of life. In the rambling answers, which Smith and company recount in a new book, "Lost in Transition," you see the young people groping to say anything sensible on these matters. But they

just don't have the categories or vocabulary to do so.

When asked to describe a moral dilemma they had faced, two-thirds of the young people either couldn't answer the question or described problems that are not moral at all, like whether they could afford to rent a certain apartment or whether they had enough quarters to feed the meter at a parking spot.

"Not many of them have previously given much or any thought to many of the kinds of questions about morality that we asked," Smith and his co-authors write. When asked about wrong or evil, they could generally agree that rape and murder are wrong. But, aside from these extreme cases, moral thinking didn't enter the picture, even when considering things like drunken driving, cheating in school or cheating on a partner. "I don't really deal with right and wrong that often," is how one interviewee put it.

The default position, which most of them came back to again and again, is that moral choices are just a matter of individual taste. "It's personal," the respondents typically said. "It's up to the individual. Who am I to say?"

Rejecting blind deference to authority, many of the young people have gone off to the other extreme: "I would do what I thought made me happy or how I felt. I have no other way of knowing what to do but how I internally feel."

Many were quick to talk about their moral feelings but hesitant to link these feelings to any broader thinking about a shared moral framework or obligation. As one put it, "I mean,

I guess what makes something right is how I feel about it. But different people feel different ways, so I couldn't speak on behalf of anyone else as to what's right and wrong."

Smith and company found an atmosphere of extreme moral individualism – of relativism and nonjudgmentalism. Again, this doesn't mean that America's young people are immoral. Far from it. But, Smith and company emphasize, they have not been given the resources – by schools, institutions and families – to cultivate their moral intuitions, to think more broadly about moral obligations, to check behaviors that may be degrading. In this way, the study says more about adult America than youthful America.

Smith and company are stunned, for example, that the interviewees were so completely untroubled by rabid consumerism. (This was the summer of 2008, just before the crash).

Many of these shortcomings will sort themselves out as these youngsters get married, have kids, enter a profession or fit into more clearly defined social roles. Institutions will inculcate certain habits. Broader moral horizons will be forced upon them. But their attitudes at the start of their adult lives do reveal something about American culture. For decades, writers from different perspectives have been warning about the erosion of shared moral frameworks and the rise of an easygoing moral individualism.

Allan Bloom and Gertrude Himmelfarb warned that sturdy virtues are being diluted into shallow values. □



Carine Roiffeld, left, and Anna Dello Russo sing karaoke at a party in New York. On the Friday and Saturday of Fashion Week, when the schedule is crowded by downtown youth, the parties are, too.

(Casey Kelbaugh/The New York Times)

CATHY HORYN

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NEW YORK — Fourteenth Street was mildly crowded as the couple walked west in the approaching twilight of last Friday. Something about the way they looked suggested that they were headed to Milk Studios, the fashion show site on

West 15th Street, and that it might be interesting to follow them.

The woman, her bleached-blond hair spilling past her small shoulders, had on a sleeveless dress of thin white crepe that the breeze occasionally caught and blew around her thighs. Underneath she wore black

The 48-hour pulse of Fashion Week

full-cut underpants that were visible through the crepe, an obviously considered choice since her bra more conventionally matched her dress. She had on platform sandals.

Just before the light at Ninth Avenue, two guys, walking in the opposite direction, turned their heads and let out a long “Zzzssh.” It would be difficult in that neighborhood, during Fashion Week, with models everywhere, to be surprised by a person’s outfit, but the young men seemed genuinely so. The couple entered 15th Street.

She gave her name as Lara Jade – or, rather, the man with her did, preceded by, “She’s a very famous photographer.” This was pure bluster but hardly the point. She was striking looking, with kittenish features, and her website gave her age as 22. The man, who called himself James Zanoni and said he was a motion graphics designer in New York (“for now”), looked to be about the same age. As the sidewalk in front of Milk filled up with guests and street photographers, Zanoni and Jade were asked why they thought so many young people wanted to attend the shows, in con-



Milk Studios, the fashion show site on West 15th Street in New York.

(Casey Kelbaugh/The New York Times)

trast to those whose jobs largely require them to be there.

“To stand out,” Zanoni replied quickly.

“Definitely,” Jade said. “To be seen and to see what’s new.” At no time during Fashion Week is this astonishingly ordinary wish more obvious and so easily met than on Friday and Saturday, when the schedule is crowded with young designers – Alexander Wang, Joseph Altuzarra, Rag & Bone – and parties, like Wang’s at Pier 40 late Saturday night, which had the quality of a rave.

For those partygoers, in their skimpy dresses and bra-revealing tank tops, who were not repelled by the initial invectives of the hip-hop group Odd Future, who stayed and danced, the party gave glimpse to

a reality quite apart from the scene at Lincoln Center, with its commercial air and overly dressed guests, and even from the fashionable scene at Wang’s show. “That’s when things got really cool,” a 30-something guest said.

In a matter of a few seasons, the Friday and Saturday shows have eclipsed the others in excitement and energy, so much so that, by Sunday, it seemed to many that spring 2012 Fashion Week had peaked and that the remaining days, far from being a slalom, were a slog. As it was, the scenesters had pretty much evaporated – no more black-underwear girls – and the plaza at Lincoln Center had depressingly filled up with claimers and gawkers, like a leaf-strewn swimming pool. □



A crowd at the Alexander Wang after-party in New York.

(Casey Kelbaugh/The New York Times)